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Very rare

STATISTICAL SURVEY
OF THE
COUNTY OF MONAGHAN,
WITH
OBSERVATIONS
ON
THE MEANS OF IMPROVEMENT,

DRAWN UP IN THE YEAR 1801,
FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND UNDER THE DIRECTION
OF

The Dublin Society,

BY
SIR CHARLES COOTE, BART.

Principis est virtus maxima, nosse suos.



Dublin :

PRINTED BY GRAISBERRY & CAMPBELL, 10, BACK-LANE.

1801.

TO THE READER.

This REPORT is at present, printed and circulated for the purpose merely of procuring further information, respecting the state and husbandry of this district, and of enabling every one interested in the welfare of this country, to examine it fully, and contribute his mite to its improvement.

The Society do not deem themselves pledged to any opinion given by the Author of this Survey ; and they desire, that nothing contained in it be considered as their sentiments ; they have only published it, as the report of the gentleman, whose name is affixed, and they publish it, for the comments and observations of all persons, which they entreat to be given freely and without reserve —

It is therefore requested, that the observations on reading this work may be returned to the Dublin Society, as soon as may be convenient, and which will meet with the fullest attention in a future edition.

DEDICATION.

TO

RICHARD DAWSON, ESQ.

**MEMBER IN THE IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT FOR THE
COUNTY OF MONAGHAN.**

SIR,

YOUR steady and earnest exertions for your country's weal, and the high situation, in which you have been unanimously placed, in the representation of a county so populous and truly independent, induced me to solicit the honor to prefix your name to this volume of the Statistical Surveys of Ireland.

Your ready and kind acquiescence has conferred on me a particular obligation, and encourages the hope, that this work may meet that

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that correction and assistance, which the gentlemen of your county are so capable of affording it, as they must be sensible of the great importance of the matter under enquiry, which it is in their power to render truly valuable.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
with great truth,
your most faithful,
and very obliged, obedient servant,

CHARLES COOTE.

DUBLIN,
CHARLEMONT-STREET,
May 1, 1801.

PREFACE.

P R E F A C E.

TO acquire the knowledge of ourselves, has always been considered to be the first duty of mankind, as the true standard to direct our judgment, and be the unerring guide of reason; this maxim will apply as strictly to a nation as to an individual in the community, and it surely is the duty of every man to contribute his mite of information to so desirable an object.

For this purpose, the ground work is now laid in the following sheets, and a minute enquiry is attempted, which it will be no very difficult matter to be completed by those, who, from residence and local knowledge, may have it in their power to supply the omissions, and correct the errors, which must necessarily have occurred to an individual and an entire stranger.

In

In committing this book to the public, the author, therefore, firmly hopes for the assistance of the resident gentlemen of the county, by being favoured with their remarks for the second edition of the work, which shall be published when their opinions are received. In the mean time, it must be understood, that the present are but a compilation of the opinions which were consulted, and that neither can the Dublin Society, who has honored him with the task, nor the author himself, be answerable for the accuracy of these reports, the plan of which, antecedent to the baronial detail, he has to acknowledge, were taken from the Somersetshire Survey, at the suggestion of the Society.

The following are the matters, which have been pointed out as deserving particular enquiry.

SUGGESTIONS.

SUGGESTIONS OF ENQUIRY

FOR GENTLEMEN WHO SHALL UNDERTAKE THE FORMING OF

AGRICULTURAL SURVEYS.



GEOGRAPHICAL STATE AND CIRCUMSTANCES.

Situation and Extent,
Divisions,
Climate,
Soil and Surface,
Minerals,
Water.



AGRICULTURE.

Mode of culture,
Extent of it, and of each species of grain sowed,
Course of crops,
Use of oxen—how harnessed,
Nature and use of implements of husbandry,
Markets for grain,
Use of green food in winter.



PASTURE.

Nature of it.
Breed of cattle—how far improved,
————— how far capable of further improvement,
Markets or Fairs for them,

b

General

General prices,
 Modes of feeding—how far housed in winter,
 Natural grasses,
 Artificial grasses,
 Mode of hay-making,
 Dairies, their produce,
 Prices of hides, tallow, wool, and quantity fold.

FARMS.

Their size,
 Farm houses and offices,
 Mode of repairing them, whether by landlord or tenant,
 Nature of tenures,
 General state of leases,
 ——— of particular clauses therein,
 Taxes or Cesses paid by tenants,
 Proportion of working horses or bullocks, to the size of farms,
 General size of fields, or, enclosures,
 Nature of fences,
 Mode of hedge-rows, and keeping hedges,
 Mode of draining,
 Nature of manures.

GENERAL SUBJECTS.

Population,
 Number and size of villages and towns,
 Habitation, fuel, food and cloathing of the lower rank—~~their~~
 general cost,
 Price of wages, labour and provisions,
 State of tithe, its general amount on each article—what arti-
 cles are exempt, and what charged by modus,
 Use of beer and spirits—whether either or which is increasing,
 State of roads, bridges, &c.
 ——— of navigations and navigable rivers,
 ——— of fisheries,

State

State of education, schools, and charitable institutions,

- of absentee and resident proprietors,
- of circulation of money or paper,
- of farming or agricultural societies,
- of manufactures, whether increasing,
- of encouragement to them, and the peculiar aptness of the situation of their extension,
- of mills for every kind,
- of plantations and planting,
- of the effects of the encouragement heretofore given to them by the Society, particularised in the list annexed.
- of any improvements which may occur, for future encouragement, and particularly for the preservation of the trees, when planted.
- of nurseries within the county and extent of sales.

Price of timber and state of it, in the county,

Quantity of bog and waste ground,

Possibility and means of improving it,

Obstacles to it and best means of removing them,

Habits of industry, or want of industry among the people,

The use of the English language, whether general, or how far increasing.

Account of towers, castles, monasteries, ancient buildings, or places remarkable for any historical event,

Churches—resident clergy, glebes and glebe houses,

Whether the county has been actually surveyed, when and whether the survey is published.

Weights and measures, liquid or dry—in what instances are weights assigned for measures—or *vice versa*.

The weight or measure by which grain, flour, potatoes, butter, &c. are sold.

ERRATA TO THE INTRODUCTION.

Page xv, lines 11, 12, for *received*, read *revived*.

xvi, line 24, for *O'Dogherty*, read, *O'Dogherly*.

xx, line 1, for 2d *patent*, read, *promise*.

xxi, line 20, for *under*, read, *render*.

xxvi, line 22, for *integrum*, read, *integram*.

xxvii, line 19, for *engaged*, read, *enjoyed*.

INTRODUCTION.

IN the history of Ireland, we do not find any matter of moment relating to this county, until in the reign of James I., 500,000 acres in Ulster were escheated to the crown, under the charge of the proprietors being disaffected to the king's government, which forfeiture included almost the whole of Monaghan.

These lands were soon after assigned to British adventurers, mostly Scotch, and not one twentieth part was given to the natives; the residue of the inhabitants had to seek an asylum in Connaught, and other waste lands, to toil for their support, or were obliged to embark in military pursuits, in the armies of foreign nations.

Contrasting the present state of the county with its history at that period, as given by that great statesman Sir John Davis, we shall

be able to judge how far the new adventurers succeeded to enlarge the commerce, and add to the respectability of the nation, by the application of their wealth and industry to the linen manufacture.

A recital of that part of Sir John's letter to the Earl of Salisbury, relating his tour through this county, will shew its miserable state at that period, with which may be compared the more happy disposition of affairs at the present time.

“ After the end of the last term, my Lord Deputy took a resolution to visit three counties in Ulster, namely, Monaghan, Fermanagh, and Cavan, which, being the most unsettled and unreformed parts of that province, did most of all need his Lordship's visitation at this time; for Monaghan, otherwise called M'Mahown's country, Sir William Fitzwilliam, upon the attainder and execution of Hugh Roe M'Mahown, chief of his name, did with good policy and wisdom divide the greatest part of that county among the natives thereof, except the church lands, which he gave to English servitors; in which division he did allot unto five or six gentlemen fundry
large

large demesnes, with certain rents and services; and to the inferior sort, several freeholds, and withal reserved a yearly rent unto the crown, of 400*l.* and odd, whereby that county seemed to be well settled for a year or two; notwithstanding the late rebellion, wherein the M'Mahowns were the first actors, reversed all that was done, and brought things in this country to the old chaos and confusion; for they erected a M'Mahown among them, who became master of all; they received the Irish cuttings and exactions, detained the queen's rent, reduced the poor freeholders into their wonted slavery, and, in a word, they broke all the covenants and conditions contained in their letters patent, and thereby entitled the crown to resume all again: they having now no other title to pretend, but only the late Lord Lieutenant's promise, and the King's mercy. I speak of the chief lords and gentlemen, whose estates were subject to conditions, albeit there was yet no office found of the breach of these conditions. But as for the petty freeholders, whose estates were absolute, many of them, whose names were yet unknown, were slain in the late rebellion,

bellion, and so attainted in law, if any inquisition thereof had been taken. Of such as did survive the wars, and had their pardons, some were removed and transplanted by the tyranny of the lords, and some were driven out of the country, not daring to return to their freeholds, without special countenance of the state; and thus stood the state of Monaghan."

"I thought it not impertinent to shew unto your Lordship, how unsettled the possession of these countries were, before my Lord Deputy began his journey, that it may appear how needful it was, that the Lord Deputy should descend in person to visit those countries, whereby he might have opportunity to discover and understand the true and particular state, both of the possessions and possessors thereof, before he gave warrants for passing the same by letters patent unto any, and thereby prevent that error, which hath formerly been committed, in passing all Tyrone to one, and Tyrconnel to another, and other large territories to O'Dogherty and Randal M'Sorly, without any respect to the king's poor subjects, who inhabit and hold the lands
under

under them, whereby the patentees are made little kings, or rather tyrants over them; infomuch, as they now being wooed and prayed by the state, cannot yet be drawn to make freeholders for the service of the commonwealth, which, before the passing of their patents, they would gladly and humbly have yielded unto. The state, therefore, of the three counties before named, standing in such terms as I have before expressed, my Lord Deputy, accompanied with the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice Sir Oliver Lambert, and Sir Garrett Moore, and being also waited upon by myself, who was for this service joined in commission of assize and gaol delivery with the Chief Justice, began his journey the nineteenth day of July last,* being Saturday, and lodged, that night and the next, at the abbey of Mellifont, Sir Garrett Moore's house. On Monday night his Lordship camped in the field, upon the borders of Ferney, which is the inheritance of the Earl of Essex, and albeit we were to pass through the wastest and wildest parts of all the North, yet we had only for our guard six or seven score

* Anno 1607.

score foot, and fifty or threescore horse, which is an argument of a good time, and of a confident deputy; for, in former times (when the state enjoyed the best peace and security) no Lord Deputy did ever venture himself into those parts, without an army of eight hundred or one thousand men. The third night after our departure from Mellifont, we came to the town of Monaghan, which doth not deserve the name of a good village, consisting of divers scattered cabins, or cottages, whereof the most part are possessed by the cast soldiers of that garrison. In the northmost part thereof, there is a little fort, which is kept by the foot company of Sir Edward Blaney, who is seneschal or governor of that county, by patent. In the midst of this village, there is a foundation of a new castle, which being raised ten or twelve feet from the ground, and so left and neglected for the space of almost two years, is now ready to fall into ruin again; albeit, his majesty's charge in building hath already been twelve hundred pounds at least. My Lord Deputy was as much displeased at the sight thereof, as the chief Lords of the county are pleased and comforted therewith,

with, because, if it were erected and finished in that form, as was intended, it would at all times be a bridle unto their own insolency; for the M'Mahowns undoubtedly are the proudest and most barbarous sept among the Irish, and do ever soonest repine, and kick, and spurn at the English government. My Lord Deputy, having pitched his tents about a quarter of a mile from the town, did presently distinguish the business, that was to be done; the determining of matters of the crown, and the hearing of personal petitions touching debt and trespass, he left wholly to the justices of the assize and gaol delivery, and reserved only to himself and the Lord Chancellor the considerations of such petitions as should be made unto him, touching the lands and possessions of that country, which business, because it was the principal, and taken in hand by my Lord Deputy himself, I will first trouble your Lordship with the relation thereof. His Lordship first propounded to the inhabitants of the country two principal questions in writing, viz. first, what lands they were at that instant possessed of, and secondly, what lands they claimed, either
by

by patent from the crown, or by patent from the state. When they had given in their several answers to these questions, my Lord Deputy thought meet to inform himself of the particular state of the country, by perusing the book of division made by Sir William Fitzwilliams, which remaining among the rolls in the Chancery, the Lord Chancellor had brought with him of purpose for this service. By that book it did appear, that the county of Monaghan was divided into five baronies, viz. Dartrey, Monaghan, Cremorn, Trough, and Donamayn; that these five baronies contain an hundred ballibetags, viz. Dartrey twenty-one, Monaghan twenty-one, Cremorn twenty-two, Trough fifteen, and Donamayn twenty-two. That every ballibetagh, which signifieth, in the Irish tongue, a town able to maintain hospitality, containeth sixteen taths; every tath containeth three score English acres, or thereabouts; so, as every ballibetagh containeth nine hundred and sixty acres, the extent of the whole country, containing one hundred ballibetags, is eighty-six thousand acres, beside the church land. All this country, albeit it were resumed and rested actually
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in the crown, by the act of attainder of Shane O'Neale, notwithstanding the M'Mahowns being still permitted to hold the possession, no man sought to have any grant thereof, until Walter Earl of Essex obtained the whole barony of Donamayn (otherwise called the Ferry and Clankawell) to himself and his heirs, and afterwards, upon the execution of Hugh Roe M'Mahowne, chief of his name, Sir William Fitzwilliams divided and disposed the other baronies in this manner; in the Daretrey, five ballibetags were granted in demesne unto Bryan M'Hugh Oge M'Mahowne, then reputed chief of his name, and the heirs male of his body, rendering thirty pounds rent, viz. six pounds for every ballibetagh; the other sixteen ballibetags were divided amongst the ancient inhabitants of that barony, some having a great portion allotted, and some a less: howbeit every one did under a yearly rent of twenty shillings out of every tath, whereof twelve shillings and sixpence was granted to Bryan M'Hugh Oge M'Mahowne, as a chief rent, in lieu of all other duties, and seven and sixpence was reserved to the crown, which plot was observed in every

every of the other baronies; so as out of every ballibetagh, containing fifteen taths, the lord had ten pounds, and the king six. In Monaghan Roffe Bane M'Mahowne had likewise five ballibetaghs granted unto him, with the like estate, rendering to the Queen 30%. rent, and the like chief rents as aforesaid, out of nine ballibetaghs more; and in the same baronies, Patrick M'Art Moyle had three ballibetaghs allotted unto him, with the like estate, rendering 18%. rent to the Queen, and the like chief rent out of all the other four. In Cremorn, Ever M'Collo M'Mahowne, who was the first of that name, that entered into the late rebellion, and is now farmer to my Lord of Essex, of all his land in that country, had five ballibetaghs in demesne granted unto him, and the heirs male of his body, rendering 30%. rent to the crown, and the like chief rent out of the twelve other ballibetaghs; and, in the same barony, one Patrick Duffe M'Collo M'Mahowne had two ballibetaghs and a half assigned to him in demesne, rendering 15%. rent, and the like chief rent out of two other baronies and a half. In the Trough, containing only fifteen ballibetaghs,

tags, Patrick M'Rena had three ballibetags, and twelve taths in demesne, given unto him with the like estate, rendering 22*l.* rent as afore said, and the like chief rent out of seven other ballibetags; and, in the same barony, one Bryan Oge M'Mahowne, brother to Hugh Ro, who was executed, had the like estate granted unto him in three ballibetags, rendering 18*l.* rent in like manner, and the like chief rent out of two other ballibetags, and under this condition, that, if the patentee, or the assigns did not, within five years, build a castle upon some part of the land, contained in their patents, their several grants to be void. Thus it appeared, that these four baronies were then bestowed among the chief lords or gentlemen of that country, and, as they had their demesnes and rents allotted unto them, so the inferior inhabitants, which were so many in number, as it is not fit to trouble your Lordship with the list of their particular names, were all named in the book of division, and had their several portions of land granted unto them and to their heirs. Howbeit, the estates made to these petty freeholders were not subject to any conditions to defeat

defeat the same, but only *nomine pena* for non-payment of their several rents; whereas, in every grant made to the lords, there was a threefold proviso, viz. that if any of them took upon him the name of M'Mahowne, or did fail of payment of the Queen's rent, or entered into rebellion, and were thereof attainted, their letters patent should be void. Thus the temporal lands were disposed. For the church land; the abbey of Clunys, which was the only abbey of any value in that county, was formerly demised to Sir Henry Drake, for years; but the rest of the spiritual lands, which the Irish call Termens, they were granted to sundry servitors, rendering ten shillings to the crown for every tath, which, out of all the church land, amounted to seventy pounds per annum or thereabouts; but as well, these patentees, as the former, did all fail in their performance of the conditions, whereupon the several estates depended; so as there wanted nothing but an office to be found thereof, for the making void all their patents. And therefore, as soon as the possessions of this country did appear unto my Lord Deputy to stand in such sort, as is before expressed, his

his Lordship forthwith commanded me to draw a special commission, directed, among others, to the Chief Justice and myself, to enquire, as well of the breach of the conditions contained in the grants before mentioned, as also of all escheated and concealed lands in that county: accordingly, the commission was drawn and sealed in the hanaper, in the execution whereof we impannelled as many of the patentees themselves as appeared at that sessions, to enquire of the articles contained in the commission: so as they themselves, found their own letters patent void; some for non-payment of the King's rent, and others, for not building of castles within the time prescribed; besides, they found divers of the inferior freeholders to have been slain in the late rebellion, whereby eight or nine ballibetags were escheated to the crown; every ballibetagh (as I said before) containing nine hundred and sixty acres, or thereabouts; which office being found, there rested in the possession of the crown the greatest part of that country: This being done, my Lord Deputy entered into council, in what manner he might dispose and re-settle the same again, according to his instructions,

instructions, received out of England in that behalf: wherein, albeit his Lordship did resolve to determine of nothing finally before his return to Dublin, where, with the rest of the council, he proposed to digest all the business of this journey, yet having an intent to make some alterations of the former division, his Lordship acquainted the principal gentlemen and Lords therewith, moving them to give their free consents thereunto; to the end, that those small alterations might not breed any difference or discord among them; and thereupon, his Lordship did in a manner conclude, that Bryan Mc. Hugh Oge should be restored to all that he had by the former division, except to one or two ballibetags, which he was well contented should be disposed to two young children, his near kinsmen, for which he was promised to receive recompence out of the lands escheated within his barony: that Patrick Mc. Art Moyle, should likewise be restored *in integrum*; howbeit, he was not well contented therewith, alledging that my Lord Lieutenant, when he had received him into grace, promised to make him equal in possessions with Bryan Mc. Hugh Oge; but my
Lord

Lord Deputy found no easy way to perform that promise; notwithstanding, his Lordship designed unto him one ballibetagh more, being a parcel of the barony of Trough, which, lying on the border of Tyrone, hath been possessed of late by the Earl, who pretended it, that it is parcel of his country: that Roffe Bane Mc. Mahowne should likewise be re-established in all his former possessions, one ballibetagh excepted, which he frankly gave to one of his kinsmen, who was forgotten in the last division. That Patrick M'Rena, and Bryan Oge M'Mahowne, should hold all their lands and rents without any alteration at all. But the greatest change was to be made in the barony of Cremourn, the greatest part whereof was, by the former division, assigned to Ever M'Collo, who, notwithstanding, never engaged any part thereof: because, one Art M'Rorie M'Mahowne, an active and desperate fellow, who had a very small portion given him by Sir William Fitz-Williams, making claim to that whole barony, did ever since, with strong hand, withhold the possession thereof from Ever M'Collo: therefore, not without consent of Ever himself, his Lordship assigned

assigned to Art Mc. Rorie five ballibetaghs in that barony: and because a place called Ballilogan, containing two ballibetaghs, lieth in the midway between Monaghan and the Newrie, which two towns are distant, the one from the other, twenty-four miles, and forasmuch, as Monaghan, being an inland town, cannot be supplied with victuals but from the Newrie, and that it is a matter of great difficulty, in time of war, to convey victuals twenty-four miles, having no place of safety to rest in by the way; therefore, his Lordship thought it very necessary for the service of the state, to reserve those two ballibetaghs, and to pass some estate thereof to the governor of Monaghan, who doth undertake within a short time, to build a castle thereupon at his own charges. These seven ballibetaghs being resumed from Ever Mc. Collo, he hath yet allotted to him, and his sons in demesne and in chief, ten ballibetaghs or thereabouts: albeit Patrick Duffe Mc. Collo, his kinsman, doth still hold his five ballibetaghs, according to the first division. This resumption was made upon Ever Mc Collo, for two causes; first, in regard the state shall now put him
in

in quiet possession of a good part of the barony; whereas, before, he did not enjoy any part thereof; secondly, because, he holdeth a whole barony in farm from my Lord of Essex, wherein he hath so good a penny worth, as he is grown since the wars, to be of greater wealth, than all the rest of his name besides. Thus much was intended for the principal gentlemen, and Lords of the country; as for the petty freeholders, such of them as survived the wars, and not being since pardoned, do own good estates in law still, and need only to be established in their several possessions; all which his Lordship hath a purpose to do, by a general order; but the lands of such, as were slain in rebellion, his Lordship allotted two or three ballibetags thereof, lying in the barony of Monaghan, unto divers cast soldiers, dwelling in that poor town, which will be a good strength to that garrison; the remnant being scattered in the other baronies, his Lordship hath disposed to such of the inhabitants, as were commended for their inclination to prove civil and loyal subjects. Lastly, the patentees of the spiritual, or tithes lands, making suit to his Lordship to be restored to

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their several portions, granted unto them upon the former division, his Lordship thought fit to extend the like favour unto them, as he had done to the Irish. And this is the effect of that business, which his Lordship reserved unto himself, wherein his Lordship doth make this a year of jubilee to the poor inhabitants of this county of Monaghan, because every man shall return to his own house, be restored to his ancient possessions, and withal have the arrear of rent to the King remitted, which is indeed a great matter; for the arrear of this country doth amount to six thousand pounds at least. Touching the service performed in this country by the Justices of assize; albeit, they found few prisoners in the gaols, the most part being bailed by Sir Edward Blaney, to the end the fort where the gaol is kept might not be pestered with them; yet, when such as were bailed came in upon their recognizances, the number was greater than we expected. One grand jury was so well chosen, as they found with good expedition all the bills of indictment true; but, on the other side, the juries, that were impanelled for trial of the prisoners, did

did acquit them as fast, and found them not guilty; which, whether it was done for favour, or for fear, it is hard to judge; for the whole county consisting of three or four names only, viz. M'Mahowne, M'Renna, M'Cabe, and O'Connolly, the chief was ever of one of those names, and of these names this jury did consist; so that it was impossible to try him, but by his kinsmen, and therefore it was probable, that the malefactors were acquitted for favour; but, on the other part, we were induced to think that fear might be the cause; forasmuch, as the poor people seemed very unwilling to be sworn of the juries, alledging that, if they condemned any man, his friends in revenge would rob, or burn, or kill them for it, and that the like mischief had happened to divers jurors since the last session holden there: such is the barbarous malice and impiety of this people. Notwithstanding, when we had punished one jury with good round fines and imprisonment, for acquitting some prisoners contrary to direct and pregnant evidence, another jury being impannelled for trial of others, found two notorious malefactors guilty, whereof one was a notable thief,

and the other a receiver of thieves, both which were presently executed, and their execution struck some terror in the best men of the country ; for the beef, which they eat in their houses, is, for the most part, stolen out of the English pale, and, for that purpose, every one of them keepeth a cunning thief, which he calleth his cater. Bryan Oge M'Mahowne, and Art M'Rorie, two of the principal gentlemen before named, were indicted for the receiving of such stealths, but they acknowledging their faults upon their knees before my Lord Deputy, had their pardon granted unto them ; so that I believe stolen flesh will not be so sweet unto them hereafter. When we had delivered the gaol, we impanelled another jury, to enquire of the state of the church in that county, giving them those special articles in charge, viz. : how many parish churches there were in that county ; who were patrons ; who were incumbents ; which of the churches were sufficiently repaired, and what decayed ; of what yearly value they were ; what glebe, tithes, or other duties belonging unto every church ; and who took the profits thereof. Thus, we did, by
virtue

virtue of that great commission, which was sent out of England about twelve months since, whereby the commissioners have authority, among other things, to enquire of these points; and thereupon, to take order for the re-edifying and the repairing of the churches, and for the placing of sufficient incumbents therein. This point of that commission was not before time put in execution any where, albeit it was fundry times moved at the council-table, that somewhat might be done therein; but my Lords the Bishops, that sit at the board, being not very well pleased that laymen should intermeddle with ecclesiastical matters, did ever answer that motion in this manner: let us alone with that business; take you no care for that; we will see it effected, we warrant you. Notwithstanding, there hath been so little care taken, as that the greatest part of the churches within the pale lie still in their ruins; so as the common people (whereof many without doubt would conform themselves) have no place to resort unto, where they may hear divine service. This consideration moved us to enquire of the state of the church in these unreformed counties.

ties. The inquisition presented unto us in this country was in Latin, because the principal jurors were vicars and clerks. It appeared that the churches, for the most part, are utterly waste; that the king is patron of all, and that the incumbents are Popish priests, instituted by bishops authorized from Rome; yet many of them, like other old priests of Queen Mary's time, in England, ready to yield to conformity. When we had received this particular information, it was thought meet to reserve it, and to suspend and stay all proceedings thereupon, until the Bishops of Derry, Raphoe, and Clogher (which three dioceses comprehend the greatest part of Ulster, albeit they be now united for one man's benefit) shall arrive out of England, whose absence being two years, since he was elected by his Majesty, hath been the chief cause that no course hath been hitherto taken to reduce this poor people to Christianity; and therefore, *majus peccatum habet*. Lastly, for the civil government of this country, we made several orders; first, for the building of a gaol and sessions-house, we imposed a tax upon the country (by consent of the chief gentlemen and freeholders),
of

of 40*l.* sterling, and, for the surplufage of the charge, we moved my Lord Deputy and council, to promife an allowance out of the fines and casualties of that county ; next, for the erecting of a free-school, and maintenance of a school-mafter, in Monaghan, we prevailed with the chief lords, fo far as they yielded, to contribute 20*l.* a year to that ufe. Finally, we revived and enlarged fundry former orders, made for the mending of highways, clearing of paths, and the bringing of idle and lazy men to juftice. This is the effect of all our proceedings in the county of Monaghan."

Sir John then proceeds to ftate his obfervations on the county of Fermanagh, after which he draws thefe conclufions.

" Now, may it please your Lordfhip, upon confideration of the whole matter, in my weak apprehenfion, I conceive thus much, that, if my Lord Deputy do finifh thefe beginnings, and fettle thefe countries, as I affure myfelf he will, this will prove the moft profitable journey for the fervice of God, and his Majefty, and the general good of this kingdom, that hath been made in the time of peace, by any deputy, thefe many years ; for, firft, his Lordfhip

ship having gotten a true and clear understanding of the state of the clergy in these parts, many will take a direct speedy course, for the planting of religion among these rude people, who are apt to take any impression; for his Lordship, knowing the number and the value of the benefices, in every county, may cause an union, or rather a sequestration, to be made of so many as will make a competent living for a sole minister; then may he give order for building of as many churches as there shall be competent livings, for ministers in that county; and this preparation being made, his Lordship may lastly provide sufficient incumbents to serve in these churches.

“Next, for his Majesty’s profit, there will be revived, and assured unto the crown, five hundred pounds per annum, out of Monaghan; which, though it was formerly reserved, was never paid to the King’s coffers; and out of the other two counties, there will be raised five hundred a year, now at least, for rent and composition. Besides, the crown is restored to all the patronages of ecclesiastical promotions,

promotions, which heretofore were usurped by the Pope, and utterly neglected by the state here. Lastly, his Majesty shall have wardships, escheats, fines, amercements, and other casualties, which were never had, nor heard of, before, in these parts. Finally, for the common good, not only of these parts, but of all the kingdom besides, his Lordship, in this journey, hath cut off three heads of that hydra of the North, namely, M'Mahowne, M'Guyre, and O'Relie; for, these three names of chieftry, with their Irish duties and exactions, shall be utterly abolished: the customs of tannistry and gavelkind, being absurd and unreasonable, as they are in use here, and which have been the cause of many murders and rebellions, shall be clearly extinguished; all the possessions shall descend, and be conveyed, according to the course of the common law; every man shall have a certain home, and know the extent of his estate; whereby the people will be encouraged to manure their land with better industry than heretofore hath been used, to bring up their children more civilly, and to provide for
their

their posterity more carefully ; these will cause them to build better houses for their safety, and to love neighbourhood ; thence will arise villages, and towns, which will draw tradesmen and artificers ; so as we conceive a hope, that these countries, in a short time, will not only be quiet neighbours to the pale, but be made as rich and as civil as the pale itself.

This is the effect of the service, which was performed in that journey, which my Lord Deputy made into Ulster this summer vacation, whereof I have made unto your Lordship a broken and disjointed relation, for which I humbly crave pardon ; the rather, because I was continually interrupted in the writing thereof, being employed upon my return out of the North, together with my Lord Chief Justice, in a new commission of Assize, and Nisi prius for the counties of Waterford, Wexford, and Wicklow ; so, as I have been enforced to take fractions and starts, and almost instants of time, to finish the several periods of this rude discourse ; in which, notwithstanding, I hope your Lordship will, according to your wonted noble disposition

INTRODUCTION.

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disposition to me, accept in good part : and so, with presentation of my humble service, I leave your Lordship to the divine preservation."

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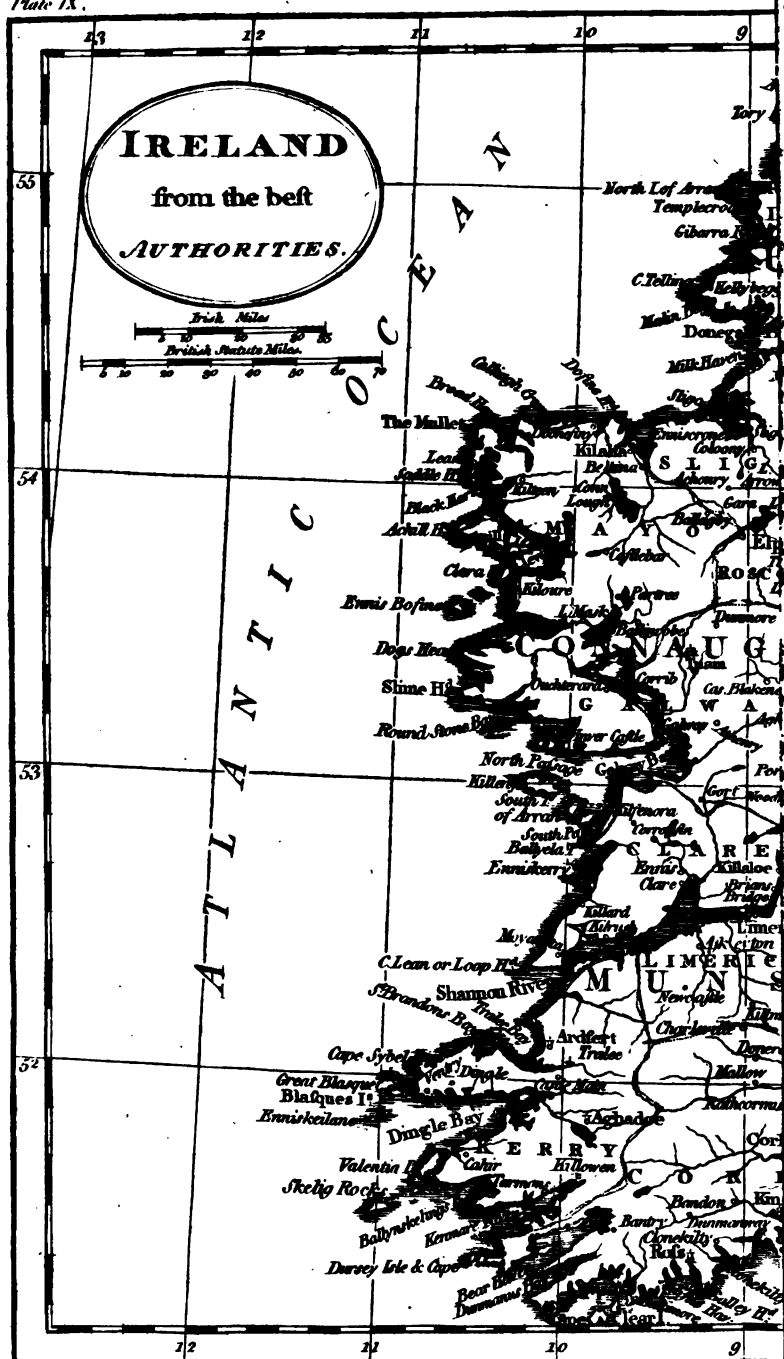
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STATISTICAL

STATISTICAL SURVEY
OF THE
COUNTY OF MONAGHAN.

CHAPTER I.

GEOGRAPHICAL STATE AND MODERN CIRCUMSTANCES.

SECT. I. *Situation and Extent.*

THE county of Monaghan is situate in the province of Ulster, and runs in an angular direction into Tyrone on its northern bounds; Fermanagh lies on its north-west, Cavan on its west; Armagh ranges the eastern borders, Louth the south-eastern, and Meath joins it at due south. In form it is rather oblong, and only deviates on the western side, where it stretches considerably in the point of junction with Fermanagh and Cavan counties. From the most northerly part of the Sleive-Baught

VOL. III.

A

mountain

mountain to Laggan-bridge, on the old road from Carrickmacross to Ardee, the breadth is above thirty miles, and the breadth, from the extreme western point of the county on the river Finn, in a right line, to the eastern point, on the borders of the county of Armagh, near Green-mount, make seventeen miles; the main breadth, from the borders joining Newchapel, in the county of Fermanagh, near Shankill, to the borders of the county of Armagh, near Middleton, make ten miles; however, the country is so much covered with bog, the distance by the nearest roads will add at least five miles to the length, and three to the breadth of the county. The area of Monaghan is laid down as containing 179,600 plantation acres, or 280 square Irish miles; this, when reduced to English measure, will appear to be in extreme length, thirty-eight miles, in breadth twenty-four; area 450 square miles, or 288,500 acres; the circumference of the county makes eighty-eight Irish, or 112 English miles.

The average value of arable or improved lands of Monaghan is equal to 25s. 6d. per Irish acre.

The population of this county is very great, being but little short of Armagh, comparatively, which is the best inhabited county in Ireland. The number of houses appear to be 22,500, and allowing nearly six souls to an house, the number of inhabitants exceed 124,000; the almost whole of the county being engaged in manufacture, and the immensity of its turf bog is far from being

OF THE COUNTY OF MONAGHAN. 3

being a secondary cause in accounting for this great population.

The Sleive-Baught, or Slabay mountains, which point north and south, divide this county from Tyrone, and touch on Fermanagh; and on the side next Armagh, the Fews mountains are the boundary. At the extremity of the county at Clones, and again at Carrickmacross, the surface is inclined more to a flat, but the interior, and all the other boundaries, form an uninterrupted undulation of ground, very hilly, yet accessible to the plough, and in the windings through the vallies, are frequent partial sheets of water, or small lakes.

The superficial contents of Monaghan may be comprized thus :

	Acres.
Arable land,	
Pasture and meadow,	136,800
Woods and plantations,	1,000
Water,	2,500
Bog, mountain, and waste,	38,000
Roads, towns, and villages,	1,300
	<hr/>
	Acres, 179,600
	<hr/>

SECT. 2. *Climate.*

THIS county, which was formerly very much wooded, must have then been very damp, as it lies so much exposed to the north-westerly winds, that prevail here almost three-fourths of the year; for, from the western

ocean, between the mountains of Leitrim and Slabay, lies a great valley, which contains Fermanagh county, and through the valley, Lough Erne flows to the very bounds of this county, and those winds carrying with them so much moisture from the sea, which is increased in their passage along the lake, and is not dispersed till they meet the Slabay mountain, against which they break with violence, the adjoining country is enveloped with a constant rain. When the old forests of this county stood, how must they have retained these damps? Even now, though they are removed, it is subject, in some degree, to an almost continual moisture; yet we do not find the natives unhealthy. Except in spring and harvest, their labour without doors is but small, and even then comparatively so, as farms in general do not exceed five acres, the people being all more or less engaged in the linen manufacture, which confines them within. Nor from these numerous lakes, are there any of those putrescent exhalations, which often proceed from stagnant waters; so that, although Monaghan possesses a damp climate, we cannot pronounce it an unwholesome one.

SECT.

OF THE COUNTY OF MONAGHAN. 5

SECT. 3. *Divisions.*

THIS county is divided into five baronies, thence into town lands.*

The following table shews the number of parishes, towns, and villages in each barony.

	Parishes.	Towns.	Villages.
Barony of Cremourne hath -	3	2	1
Dartrey, - - -	6	1	5
Farney, or Donaghmoyne, -	5	1	1
Monaghan, - - -	6	1	5
Trough, - - -	2	1	1
	—	—	—
	Parishes, 22	Towns, 6	Villages, 13
	—	—	—

This

* A town-land in Irish is named Ballibetagh, and signifies a town able to maintain hospitality, which containeth sixteen taths; every tath containeth sixty-three English acres, or thereabouts; so as every ballibetagh containeth 960 acres, the extent of the whole county containing an hundred ballibetags, is 96,000 acres, besides church lands. *Sir John Davis's Historical Tracts.*

It is here to be remarked, that these were the arable lands of the county; the bog, mountain, church lands, and waste, not being included, which, with 96,000 acres of arable, would appear to have been 192,500 acres, to make up the contents of the county in English acres, which, I have shewn, are 288,500.

This county was formerly represented by four members of parliament; two for the shire, and two for the town of Monaghan. The present representation in the imperial parliament are, two members for the shire; the borough is extinct.

In all the late maps and denominations of the county, the barony of Farney is called Donaghmoynce; in the old grant, the whole of this barony to the Earl of Essex is styled the * Ferny, and Clankawell, alias Clankerville, alias Hifferney, alias Fifferney: it is now the property of nearly two proprietors; the more considerable part, containing 18,690 plantation acres, is enjoyed by Mr. Shirley, and 13,955 plantation acres by the Marquis of Bath; those two proprietors deriving from the Earl of Essex, and holding in fee; and about 2000 acres, which were set in perpetuity by the Earl of Essex to a fair maiden his vassal, at the annual rent of 40*l.* sterling, for the consideration of a night's lodging and entertainment. This has since descended to the Brownlow family, and is now an estate worth 2000*l.* per annum and upwards.

In Camden it is noted, that Monaghan was originally divided into five districts, Iriel, Dartre, Fernlis, and Loghty, which for rebellion were taken from the Mc. Mahons by act of parliament, together with the territory of Donaghmayne, which was given by Queen Elizabeth to Walter Devereux, Earl of Essex.

These

* Sir John Davis's Historical Tracts.

These Mc. Mahons (a name signifying in Irish, the sons of a bear) for a long time governed these parts, and were descended from Walter Fitzurse, who had a hand in the murder of Thomas, Archbishop of Canterbury. The most successful man of the family, according to the custom of this nation, was wont to lord it over the rest, under the title of Mc. Mahon, and, while they were contending for the sovereignty, by slandering, fighting, bribing, and other foul practices, they drew the lord deputy William Fitzwilliams amongst them, and he cited Hugh Roe Mc. Mahon (whom by his authority he had advanced to the seigniory), and found him guilty of treason, and ordered him to be hanged; and, that he might extinguish the name of the Mc. Mahons for ever, he divided the territory between the relations of the said Hugh, and certain Englishmen, to have and to hold to them, and their heirs, by the English tenure. And again Camden says, on the east side of Lough Erne, lies the county of Monaghan, very mountainous and woody. It has not one remarkable town besides Monaghan, which gives name to the whole county, and is a barony in the honorable family of Blaney.

In the Ecclesiastical division of Monaghan, we find it contains twenty-two parishes, and nineteen churches, all in the diocese of Clogher.

Here

STATISTICAL SURVEY

Here follows an alphabetical arrangement of parishes.

1. AGHABOG is a rectory, in the barony of Dartrey, it hath a glebe and parsonage.
2. AGHNAAMULLEN is a rectory, in the barony of Cremorne, it hath a parsonage and a glebe at Corkeerin.
3. CLONES is a rectory, in the barony of Dartrey, it hath a parsonage in Clones, and a glebe at Altartate.
4. CLONTIRRETT is a vicarage, in the barony of Cremorne, it hath a parsonage and glebe.
5. CURREN is a vicarage, in the barony of Dartrey.
6. DOWAGH is a vicarage, in the barony of Trough, it hath a glebe at Bishop's Place, and also a parsonage.
7. DONAGHMOYNE is an impropriate rectory, in the barony of Farney, it hath a glebe and parsonage.
8. DRUMSNAT is a vicarage, in the barony of Monaghan, it hath neither glebe nor parsonage, but here are ruins. The rectory is impropriate.
9. EMATRIS is a rectory, in the barony of Dartrey, it hath a glebe and parsonage.
10. ENRIGAL is a vicarage, in the barony of Trough, it hath a glebe and parsonage.
11. GALLON is a rectory, in the barony of Dartrey, and hath a glebe.
12. INNISKEEN is a rectory, in the barony of Farney, and hath a glebe and parsonage.
13. KILLANEY is a rectory, in the barony of Farney, it hath a parsonage, and a glebe at Drumseragh and Essex's Ford.
14. KILLEVAN is a rectory, in the barony of Dartrey, it hath a glebe.
15. KILMORE

OF THE COUNTY OF MONAGHAN. 9

15. **KILMORE** is a rectory, in the barony of Monaghan, and hath a parsonage and glebe at Kilmore.

16. **MAGHERACLONY** is a vicarage, in the barony of Farney, it hath a parsonage and a glebe at Camackey. The rectory is impropriate.

MAGHEROSS is a vicarage, in the barony of Farney, the glebe lies at Derryoline. The rectory is impropriate.

18. **MONAGHAN** is a rectory, in the barony of Monaghan, the glebe lies at Mollinally.

19. **MUCKNOE** is a rectory, in the barony of Cremorne.

20. **TIDAVNET** is a rectory, in the barony of Monaghan, it hath a parsonage, and the glebe lies at Killymarren.

21. **TIHALLEN** is a rectory, in the barony of Monaghan, it hath a parsonage, and the glebe lies at Tullygorey.

22. **TULLYCORBET** is a rectory, in the barony of Monaghan, it hath a parsonage, and the glebe lies at Terryguly.

As

Note—The parish church of Donagh, is in the town of Glaslough; that of Ematris, at Kilcrow; that of Drumswords, at Galloon; that of Magherafs, at Carrickmacross; that of Muchnoe, at Castleblany, and that of Tidaunet, at Ballinoudé village.

I am concerned to state, that in the enquiries, which I made from some gentlemen of the established church, I could not get any information, particularly as to what related to ecclesiastical affairs; this accounts why the value of benefices is not given, nor a more particular report of church lands. I must, however, mention, that I did not make personal application to all of them, by letter I certainly did, but was not

As there are such great tracts of church lands in this county, I think it is proper to give the earliest account of them, which we have in Sir John Davis's letter.

"The church land was either monastery land, corbe land, or Herinachs, for it did not appear unto us, the bishop had any land in demesne, but certain mensall duties, of the corbes and herinachs, neither did we find the parsons and vicars had any glebe lands at all in this county.

"But the lands belonging to the Corbes and Herinachs, are of a far greater quantity, and are found in every barony. I had heard of the name of corbe, and of a herinach, divers times, since I came into this kingdom, and would gladly have learned of our clergymen, in Dublin, what kind of religious persons they were, but could never be satisfied by any; and therefore at this time, I was the more curious and inquisitive, to inform myself of these ecclesiastical persons, the like whereof are not to be found in any other part of Christendom, nor in Ireland neither, but only in the counties, that are
mere

not favoured with any reply. Those, to whom I applied personally, not choosing to give any information, discouraged me for troubling any others of that respectable body, who, from their general knowledge and residence, I had vainly hoped, would be of the most material assistance, in a work, which they cannot be ignorant, but is meant to promote the general good of the nation.

I should here do injustice to the polite and willing assistance I received from the Rev. Dr. Murphy, parish priest of Tidaunet, if I should omit to mention his liberality and exertions to forward a work, which he had too much sense to shew any jealousy of.

mere Irish.* When therefore we came to enquire the quantity of termon lands, I called unto me one of the best learned vicars in all the country, and one that had been a Brehon, and had some skill in the civil and common laws, and with much ado, I got from him thus much light for the understanding of this matter. He told me, that the word *termon* doth signify, in the Irish tongue, a liberty, or freedom, and that all church lands whatsoever are called termon lands by the Irish; because they were ever free from all impositions, and cuttings, of the temporal Lords, and had the privilege of sanctuary, so as no temporal serjeant, or officer, might enter to arrest any person upon their lands, but the bishop's officers only;† howbeit, in common understanding, among us, that are English, we call such only termon lands, as were in the possession of corbes or herenachs. For the name of Corbe, I could not learn that it had any signification in the Irish tongue: some call him in Latin Converbis, but such as are of best understanding

* Dr. Leland seems to have misunderstood Sir John Davies, as he states Sir John's letter to have said, "That the corbes or herenachs, were peculiar to the mere Irish countries, of all other parts of Christendom." Leland's 4to edit. vol. 11. p. 510.

† The learned Usher agrees with Sir John, in this description of the termon lands. See Leland, 4to, edit. vol. ii. p. 510.

understanding call him *Plebanus*, and they yield the reason of that name, *quia plebi ecclesiasticae præest*.*

"I recollect by that which they told me, that he was a prior or a resident of a collegiate church; for he did not only possess a good quantity of glebe lands, the tenants and occupiers whereof were called *termon men*, and had privilege of clergy, but he had also some rectories appropriate, whereof he had that portion of tithes, which belonged to the parson, and had withal the presentation of the vicarage; he had always his place or seat in the mother church, where he had a certain number of priests serving with him; in the cathedral church he had a stall in the choir, and a voice in the chapter, and this *corbship* is named a dignity in the register at Rome; for all dignities in cathedral churches, and all benefices of value in the kingdom are contained in a register at Rome, and the Pope at this day doth collate unto them, and until this day the parsons presented have enjoyed the benefices

* The profound Usher gives a somewhat different account of the *herenachs* and *corbes*; the *herenachs* had two characters, partly ecclesiastical, and somewhat lay. They were admitted into deacon's orders, but they were never advanced higher, and they resided on the *termon* lands, the profits of which they distributed to the bishops and inferior clergy, to the repair of churches, and the maintenance of hospitality. These services they performed under the direction and care of *corbes*, who were ecclesiastics of a much higher order, approaching nearly to the character of the bishop, who presided over the inferior clergy. It was also the opinion of the very skilful antiquary before mentioned, that the most ancient church polity of Ireland was extremely analogous to that which once existed all over Christendom. See Leland's 4to edition, vol. ii. p. 434.

benefices in this meer Irish country, by colour of the Pope's collation. Lastly, this corbship was in a manner hereditary, for though the corbe were even in orders, yet he was in this Irish country usually married, or if he were not married, he had children, and after his death, if any of his sons were qualified with learning, he was chosen by the dean and chapter to be corbe; and if none of his sons were capable, another of that sept or surname was chosen. Without doubt, these corbships, being in the nature of collegiate churches, are vested in the crown by the statute of dissolution of monasteries, and accordingly some of them have been reduced into charge, but there are many, whereof no inquisition hath been found, but concealed as detained by the Irish until this day; and that your Lordship may perceive, I weave not this out of my own brain, but that I have authority for that which I deliver, I will here insert a certificate, in Latin, made unto me by an Irish scholar, whose opinion I required in this matter, which, by chance, I have now among my papers; for the most part of these things I have set down out of my own memory, being now at Waterford, and having left the notes of our former journey at Dublin.

The scholar's opinion was this:—*“Corbonatus sine plebanatus dignitas est, et modo ad regem pertinet, sed antea ad papam; in matrice ecclesia debet necessario esse, initiatus sacris ordinibus, omnesque decimas pertinentes ad hanc debet habere, et beneficia adjuncta huic ipsius sunt, eorumque conferentiam habet, et presentationem.”*
“Dicitur

*“ Dictum hoc nomen, quia populo & plebi ecclesiasticae
 “ matricis ecclesiae praesuit, certum numerum sacerdotum
 “ quasi collegialium debet habere secum; primum stallum
 “ in sua ecclesia habet, habet etiam stallum vacuum in
 “ ecclesia cathedrali, et vocem in omni capitulo, tam pub-
 “ lico, quam privato, inscribitur Romano registro ideoque
 “ dignitas est.”*

“ Of these corbships, the best in these parts is at Clony's, in the county of Monaghan, which M^r Mahowne himself procured to be conferred upon his eldest son, being but a boy, in the time of the late rebellion. It was long before granted unto Sir Henry Duke for years, and is now in possession of Sir Francis Rushe, who married one of Sir Henry Duke's daughters. There is another at Derough, in Fermanagh, which is likewise brought into charge. There are others in O'Rourke's country, others in Upper Ossory, and in Ormond, and in many other places, which are not yet discovered. Thus much touching the nature of a corbe and of an herinach.

“ For the herinach, there are few parishes of any compass in extent, where there is not an herinach, which being an officer of the church, took beginning in this manner:—When any Lord or Gentleman had a direction to build a church, he did first dedicate some good portion of land to some saint or other, whom he chose to be his patron; then he founded the church and called it by the name of that saint, and then gave the land to some clerk, not being in orders, and to his heirs for ever,

ever, with this intent, that he should keep the church clean, and well repaired, keep hospitality, and give alms to the poor, for the soul's health of the founder. This man and his heirs had the name of Errenagh. The Errenagh was also to have a weekly commemoration of the founder of the church.

"He had always Primam Tonfuram, but took no other orders; he had a voice in the chapter, when they consulted about their revenues, and paid a certain yearly rent to the bishop, besides a fine upon marriage of every one of his daughters, which they call a Loughhimpy; he gave a subsidy to the bishop, at his first entrance into his bishopric.

"The certainty of all which duties appear in the bishop's register, and these duties grew unto the bishop, first, because the herinach could not be erected, nor the church dedicated without the consent of the bishop. We are yet doubtful, whether these lands, possessed by the herinachs, be yet reduced to the crown, because the statute of chaunteries is not yet enacted in this kingdom; but certain it is, that these men possessed all the glebe lands, which belonged, yearly, to such as have care of souls, and therefore, when they shall be resumed, it were meet they should be added to the parsonages and vicarages, whereby they may be found competent livings for able ministers, which may be placed hereafter in these parts; for now, albeit, there be in every parish both a parson and a vicar, yet both livings being put together are not sufficient to feed an honest man;

man ; for the tithes of every parish within the diocese of Clogher, which comprehendeth Monaghan, and almost all Fermanagh, are divided into four parts, whereof the parson, being commonly no priest, hath two parts, the vicar, who is ever a priest, and serveth the cure, hath one fourth part, and the bishop hath another fourth part, which, God knoweth, in these poor waste countries, doth arise to very small portions. And thus we found the state of the church land in this country."

SECT. 4. *Soil and Surface.*

There is a great variety in the soil of Monaghan, the high lands, in some parts, not being at all fit for tillage, as in a great part of the barony of Dartrey ; one night's rain might postpone the sowing of a fallow for a season, where there is no limestone, but very deep in a partial gravel ; however, this is favourable to grass, and there is no soil in the county, which is not naturally fertile, though remarkable for rushes and a spring grass. Much corn is brought into the county, as little soil is favourable to wheat. Flax is their great crop, on which their trade depends, and the cold and deep clays, which are so well adapted for its vegetation, may be stated the more general soil of the county. Its favourable situation for manufacture, its great population, and the land being divided into so numerous small farms, all militate
against

against encouraging grazing or dairy husbandry, and recommend a preference for tillage. Potatoes and oats are successfully cultivated; these are the crops, which have the best return, and there is no soil here, which will not well agree with them. Excellent vegetables are profitably attended to, and their value is well estimated by the lower orders, who raise them in abundance.

MOUNTAINS.

The Sleive-Baught, or Slabay mountains, are one great uninterrupted ridge of high land, the most considerable part of which has nothing to recommend it, not possessing a fruitful soil, or scarce any of those natural beauties, which are peculiar to mountains; neither the dusky glen, the bold precipice, the towering cliff, the cascade, nor scarcely one beautiful view to be seen throughout; the whole is but an uninteresting waste, gradually vanishing into the low lands, where the soil is moory; they are almost always wet, but yet not without capability, and have, in partial spots, beds of the richest limestone, and abundance of marle; a peculiar fine manure also appears near the surface, consisting of banks of decayed limestone, which turns up in slaty stuff, but so soft, that it can be worked to a consistency like putty; it is highly calcareous, and will strongly effervesce with acids. I have seen very good effects from this manure, and a nice vegetation produced by it. On these mountains,

tains, which shew a quantity of decayed granite, is also abundance of freestone, and grit, with which sewers could be made, as draining must certainly first be pursued actively and earnestly, before any profit can be reaped: again, the soil now varies to a siliceous quality, and in a few spots is found a gravelly loam. Cairnmore, which seems to be the highest point of Slabay, is famous for its mill-stone quarry; on the eastern side of this ascent, a large tract of land, I think, lies admirably well for improvement, and could be capitally reclaimed, at a small expense: for contiguous to it, is a fine lime-stone quarry, running for a considerable distance, and forming the bed of a shallow though rapid stream, and pointing S. E. Turf is immediately convenient, and the ground lies very well for draining. There has been some attempt made in liming, and the soil soon shews its wonderful powers, as two hundred stones of oats will be produced from one acre, which has got but forty barrels of this manure, and will not be worth reaping without it.

The obstinacy of this soil, which is so reclaimable by lime, is rather singular; its quality is stiff, and the very shallow and mossy loam on this surface acts as a sponge to imbibe the rain, after a fall of which a beast could not walk these mountains, and a few days of drought again will bake it so extremely, that no plough could make the least impression on it: when in this state, the rain at first runs off in torrents along the surface, till it penetrates, which does not immediately take place, and then

then it becomes a complete quagmire. There is no appearance of this mountain ever having been in forest, as any tree, which is planted here, soon becomes dwarfish and stunted, and never arrives to perfection. At the foot of these hills, where the peasants have little gardens, which have all got a sprinkling of lime, it is surprising to see the difference of the soil, and what rampant crops of oats, and excellent vegetables are produced; and here they have groves of fallow, and osier, which thrive in the greatest vigour, and the rude wicker work made of them, and brought down to the fairs, returns no inconsiderable share of the rent. On Dunanoun hill there is an oak scrub; the inhabitants do not remember the trees to have stood, but every appearance justifies the remark, that the soil is unfavourable to timber, as no where is to be seen a vestige but of very slender trees; however, this should not discourage the proprietors from planting, as a little lime would soon render it favourable for this pursuit, and I think should be commenced with in their reclamation, as now being totally devoid of shade and shelter, which are so requisite either for grazing or tillage husbandry, and no situation can be more exposed.

On the town land of Stramuckle-Roy, on this mountain, is a great bank of the decayed limestone I have alluded to, running along a paltry glen, and exposed, where the rock is denuded of the soil, by the torrents, which have swept it away. This has here been put out for manure, and, I am informed, had the best effect, as

fix successive crops of oats were yielded from one manuring, and each was excellent; however, on attempting a seventh, there was a great crop of straw, but no head to the stalk; there is a partial appearance of aerugo spewing through the land, and below the glen is also found some sound limestone. It is to be remarked, that the effects of this rotten calcareous bank, on land, will not appear until the second year after it is put out. Contiguous to it is yellow ochre in abundance, and about fifteen perches eastward, is a well, which has a chalybeate taste, and a very clear stream covered with a strong scum of curdled ochre; it is significantly called Drum-tubber-buy, which signifies the high ridge, with the yellow spring. I did not learn, that this well was famous for any medicinal virtue; but a peasant remarked, that all that range, which had been cropped and manured with the rotten stone, was overflowed with these waters the year, in which it only produced straw without the head of corn. It would be worth enquiring into the nature of this water; the well is surrounded with a wide morass, which in a wet season would certainly discharge a great deal of water, and the lands, that are arable, are commanded by it.

In the town land of Carrigaleigh, on the banks of a shallow rivulet, is an abundance of iron ochre spewing through a rock of rotten freestone and partial granite; and contiguous to it, are quantities of bitumen, and a glutinous earth, highly impregnated with sulphur.

At

At Cavin-more, which signifies the great height, and, as I have said, is the highest point of the Sleive-Baught mountains, is an extensive quarry, which varies in quality very materially; the northern side, and the summit of the hill, is a soft whitish freestone; the southern side is red, and very hard grit, close in the grain, and thickly interspersed with flint. The stones here are worth many times those of the northern side; the red stone lies in a deep hole, which only can be quarried in summer, as, at other times of the year, it is full of water: the upper stratum is brittle and loose, this the quarrymen call kelp. The following is the process of raising the stones; they first describe a circle, of about six inches greater circumference than the intended stone; from the outer edge of which, they sink a groove two feet deep, and inclining in an oblique direction towards the centre; next, they insert fifty-two large iron wedges in this groove, striking them with sledges in the like sloping inclination, which force up the stone: if it rises convex, so much the better, and it is dressed for a bed stone, and reduced to a proper size; if it is of a concave inclination, it will make a runner; but if its concavity is considerable, it is cast. The freestone, or northern side is very easily worked, and will soon waste away. They dress them to the dimensions of five feet diameter, ten inches thick at the outer rim, to sixteen in the crown; the cost of the flint-stones at the quarry, is seven guineas per pair; the soft grit is four guineas; they will be sent any where within the county for one and

and one half guinea more. A very narrow road is made for rolling them down the hill, and it is done expeditiously, by placing the stones on an edge, and putting a handspike through the eye of each, thus forming, a sort of axletree and wheels: this axle is keyed at either end, and by ropes around it, which men hold behind, they prevent it from running down too fast, or leaving its track, till it gets off the mountain. There is a good demand for these stones, and always from ten to twenty pair ready dressed. The quarry is rented for ten guineas annually, and the proprietor resides near Tidavnet village, where he has always a number of these stones ready for sale.

At the northern side, and just below the rock, is a pretty considerable and very deep lake, with no apparent way for its water to pass off; it is always more or less turbulent, and has a dry and wide strand around it. From the summit of Cairn-more, is commanded an extensive prospect, comprising the whole of this county; parts of Armagh, Fermanagh, Cavan, Leitrim, Down, Tyrone, Louth, and Meath, can be easily distinguished. Lough Erne, and its beautiful adjacent islands, are in full view, and several lesser lakes are at no great distance; the land around it lies well for improvement, and immediately here is the only part of the Slieve-Baught mountains, which is capable of ornamental improvements. The limestone quarry I have spoken of, as adjacent to Cairn-more, would not only furnish the real valuable matter to reclaim these lands, but the glen, formed by the
the

the stream, rolling over the craggy rock, is picturesque, and would highly contribute to the beauties of a demesne. As this glen deepens in the descent, the banks are covered with a thick scrub, and form a shelter; here, the grateful soil yields trefoil, clover, strawberries, roses, and wild flowers, naturally, and serves to shew to how great profit it might be turned by a little industry.

Knockotally town-land is a bare and barren waste, where there is a great quantity of freestone; it is manufactured here for the various purposes of building, and sent from hence and laid down at eight-pence per foot, to the low lands, or rather the inlands, as the adjacent country is completely a valley between Sleive-Baught and Creive mountains; the latter, though nothing like so extensive a range, is certainly the higher land, and objects beyond Cairn-more are seen from its summit, about fifteen miles distant.

That part of the Sleive-Baught mountains, which yields county cess, is divided into twenty-nine bars or divisions; its proportion is but 40*l.* annually, and principally is on the estate of Lord Massareene, but was set in perpetuity about forty years ago, to several proprietors; it has indications of both coal and iron mines, and the manner of these tenures is rather an hindrance to the discovery of mines, as the tenants have no interest in looking for them, as, by their leases, they could not share such benefit, it being reserved to the landlord, and his non residence is another obstacle to their disclosure. The opinion that freestone only is the indication of coal mine,

mine, is erroneous, as coals appear in this district, where limestone abounds; and, in the marble quarry at Glen-non, in the barony of Trough, which is all limestone, are large blocks of coal frequently found. In this mountain appearances of coal are seen also in a sandy soil, through which are large particles of flint, and sometimes coal smut is found adhering to a kind of petrification, being impregnated with ligneous particles, leaves, insects, &c.; and the grit-stones are apparently highly impregnated with sulphur, and full of black inky stains. The soil of these bars is stiff and argillaceous, and of a white colour, unfavourable to grass. On some parts of these mountains are seen no small appearances of a quondam volcano, calcined substances, sulphur, and abundance of cinders: the combustible matter may have been exhausted here, and may, perhaps, account for its ceasing to burn. Marble is also found in stone, as well as in clay, and, when pounded, will effervesce with acids, yet will withstand the powers of the furnace, and, I am told, will even resist burning glasses, although crystal free-stone, and even granite, are by fire rendered vitrifiable, and thus devoid of all qualities, but gravity and shape; yet this calcareous matter will not yield at all to it; neither is it reducible to any other property but as a manure, though flint, which is so much harder, passes to potter's earth, by being exposed to the air.

On these hills hornstone is partially found, and they also abound with potter's clay. There is a very fine kind of this mineral not far from Cain-More, which is of so great

great value, that two small kishes of it, which are carried on a horse's back, are often sold at the potteries at Dundalk for from 10s. to 15s.; this makes the nicest glazed thin ware, and, no doubt, is of greater value than the proprietor is aware of; surely, if so valuable at Dundalk, would it not be considerably more so at home, if a pottery was established here; and the bank, in which it is found, abounds with coarser clays, fit for every branch of that manufacture.

If roads were made through this mountain, and more cabins built, it would tend to the inclosure of land, which would be the first step, not only for reclaiming it, but towards the discovery of riches, which it surely possesses, and then manufactories would soon be established, as the way would be made for conveying off the commodity.

A great district of the county of Monaghan lies in the valley between these mountains and Creive, which, I have shewn, is certainly the highest ground.

Not long since, the Creive mountain was an unreclaimed waste, and had nothing to recommend it, or to promise a reward to industry, but the lake on its summit, which has been most judiciously turned to the best possible advantage, in supplying the numerous bleach-mills with water for their machinery, and will be particularly spoken of just now.

But to return to the natural history of this mountain, we find it abounds with lead ore of the richest quality; near to Aughnamullen church are mines of this metal, on the church lands of Tamla, the property of ———

Johnson,

Johnson, Esq. on which was erected a smelting-mill, and it is more than forty years past since the works were carried on with spirit; about six years ago, they were again dabbled in, and money was made, but for want of capital, this very profitable business has been neglected.

On the town lands of Curraghbrack, the estate of Messrs. Sloane and Bellingham, a lead mine was worked about fifty years ago. The miners found a vein, or rather pieces of the ore with angular points, of about one hundred weight each; these were carried to Newtown-Hamilton, and there smelted. Their first attempt having been so successful, they shewed the true spirit of the Irishman in sacrificing to Bacchus the whole of their profits, which in a very few days returned forty pounds clear for the labour of six men, and, in their inebriation, they were guilty of some excesses, that obliged them to leave the country, and the pursuit was not since resumed. In the Dublin Society's museum, are samples of both these mines, which I collected on the spot.

The mountain of Creive is about six miles square, and the water from it flows towards the sea in two opposite directions; one stream flows towards Dundalk, on the easterly side, and the other towards Ballyshannon on the west.

The stone here is of a very hard quality, neither limestone nor freestone, but what is called here a whinstone; its colour is that between a blue and dark green; it is excellent for building, as it never sweats, and is so durable.

durable. There is no appearance of iron or of coal throughout the hill.

The lake, which is called Lough Eagish, covers about fifty acres, is very deep, and is principally supplied from springs; it is also fed in winter with the snow, which falls from two high hills, that flank it east and west: this reservoir lies high above the bleach-mills, fourteen of which are worked by the stream, and the tail-race of one mill is the head of the next below it, which are all in close neighbourhood; the mills lying the highest have the preference, and bleach the linens the best and whitest, having the clearest water. This lake is under the care of a waterman, who is employed for this purpose, at the joint expence of all the bleachers, and is obliged to pay particular attention to the head, and to regulate the pass by a wooden conduit, through which the water flows, which is secured by a head stock, and frame built over the pipe, and by means of a windlass and iron wheel, worked by the hand, he can draw the stopple so as to admit any quantity of water necessary for the work. By the husbanding of the water in the main reservoir, which is the lake, they have always a sufficiency of water; and in the remarkably dry summer of 1800, they had no lackage. By adhering to rules, which they found necessary to adopt, in keeping the water to a certain head, the proprietors beneath it feel now no inconvenience, when, before the present regulations were attended to, it was a matter of perpetual care, and the state of this lake was daily enquired into with as much

much anxiety as the natives of Egypt would enquire of the Nile.

Mr. John Jackson, who resides here, and whose mills have the first command of the water, has a most capital concern, and expended several thousand pounds in building his extensive works, besides a very handsome dwelling house, with all suitable offices, and has reclaimed much of the land at a great expence. Indeed, were it not for the convenience of the manufactories, the land here would not be worth the great cost of reclaiming, being rocky, and but a poor, gravelly, and gritty soil.

About twenty years ago, this mountain was subject to great mists and fogs, which have of latter years gradually disappeared. These fogs would probably continue ten or twelve days together, inasmuch that a web could not be dried on their lofts, and now scarce one day arrives to interrupt them. The draining of the extensive bogs, which has very much taken place in their vicinity, may account in part for the great change in the atmosphere, but I conceive the principal cause is the extraordinary population here, which, with the necessary fuel required for the manufactories, occasions so great a consumption of that rarefying matter, by which means the air is thus cleared; and, as a proof of this, where the bleak uninhabited bog lies below, those mists will remain stationary for several days together, as it used to be the case at Creive before the manufactories were there

there established. The received opinion, that the draining of the bogs is the sole cause of the removal of these mists, is evidently erroneous, as none of the lands above these manufactories are yet drained, and, nevertheless, the mists have disappeared; and it should be remembered, that these are the highest lands in the country. The non-putrescent quality of bog also militates against that argument, and is a sufficient reason, why population is so very great in their vicinity. Every inch of Creive, from Lough Eagish downwards, towards Monaghan, is now reclaimed, and an average rent of no less than fifteen shillings per acre paid for it, which is a very high rent for mountain, where it was taken in its unreclaimed state; it would not be at all worth any such sum, but that its value is enhanced by its manufactories.

An idea may be formed of the quantity of turf consumed, which is their only fuel; when each of the proprietors in the mountain have from sixty to one hundred persons employed three months in every year in their turbaries, and the great demand for this labour obliges them to retard the increasing of their work.

On Creive is also a capital slate quarry; some houses have been covered from thence for forty years past, and not one slate yet disturbed; they are in general raised very heavy; by this means stronger timber is required in the roof, but the slates are not so liable to suffer injury from the sun or the weather. A sample of this slate is also in the Dublin Society house.

This

This hill, and the Sleive-Baught, are only deserving the name of mountains in Monaghan, but, from the irregularity of the surface almost throughout, it cannot be called either a flat or plain country.

Camden relates, that, on these mountains, on the borders of the county, were discovered four teeth of an extraordinary size; two of them were in weight two pounds three quarters each, and two six ounces each. Upon comparing them with the like teeth, which have been found in England, the Royal Society were clearly of opinion, that they could be no other than the teeth of an elephant.

WOODS.

That this country was once under forest, is evident from the great trunks of solid timber yet found in every part of the bogs, which are of uncommon size, and prove how favourable to the growth of timber that soil particularly is; the uplands, however, have not any vestige of ancient forest, and, although they were till lately well wooded, yet all those trees, and also these, which yet stand, are known to have been planted within the two last generations.

The ash wood at Glaslough, which covers about one hundred acres, is, I suppose, the finest timber in Ireland, and is estimated as worth one thousand pounds per acre. This seems an extraordinary valuation indeed, but it will

will be found not so unreasonable, when it is viewed; for I do not hesitate to assert, that it would sell for every shilling of that sum, were there the advantage of water carriage, which is very distant. In this country the timber would bring no such money, where ash is not valued at above two shillings per foot; nevertheless, on even this valuation, at the rate of the country, the proprietor was offered six thousand guineas for one thousand trees, which he refused to take. These woods I certainly would rate as the most valuable in the county, though they are by no means the most extensive.

Dawson Grove demesne has by far the most considerable quantity of timber, and comes nearest to the pre-eminent application of forest, which will in its place be particularly spoken of. Castleblaney demesne has also a tolerable appearance of wood, and all the improved demesnes throughout the county are well planted with young timber, which will soon make a fine shew: amongst these, Ankettle's Grove will undoubtedly take the lead, as the proprietor has for some years indefatigably and successfully pursued this very laudable improvement.

BOG AND MOOR.

Monaghan has an extensive supply of bog for her manufacture, and will furnish fuel enough for centuries; and without the least cause of alarm on this account, as
I have

I have heard stated, the proprietors may undertake the reclamation of their moors,

The moors here are the most valuable I have seen, having a thick superficial stratum of the red bog, which furnishes so valuable a manure in its ashes; they are rather ill supplied with limestone-gravel, or calcareous clays, but yet they have very deep clays, which I have seen to produce nearly as good an effect as gravel. These moors lie in the best direction for draining, having an excellent fall; but the proprietors of this valuable soil seem totally ignorant of their wealth, and, except the improvements in this useful branch of husbandry, deserving particular notice, the great and general tract of moor through the county is totally neglected, and scarce any profit reaped from it, except one-fourth of the year it may be occupied by young store cattle.

It is sincerely to be hoped, that the finely reclaimed moors at Glaslough, which in three years time pay a profit after every expence, and have restored a tract of country now well worth five pounds per acre, and before never yielded six pence, will have the demonstrative effect with other proprietors, who seem ignorant of the great capabilities, which this soil possesses. But the first process of reclaiming moor, is obviously by draining; and here I should do injustice to the extraordinary exertions of my friend Thomas Brunker, Esq. if I should withhold that tribute of acknowledgment, which is due to him by every lover of improvement. This gentleman has actually gained a tract of land, consisting, as I am told,
of

of one thousand acres, by a work of Herculean labour, the cutting great drains, which, if in a right line, would extend for several miles : in one of these he had to encounter a hill of nearly seventy feet in height from its base, and of a very considerable length, which he at length effected. This one drain cost about five hundred pounds, but it could not be avoided, as this was the only fall for the main drain, into which all the others flow, and, thus, the immense share of the numerous lakes, that lay in this district was gained, some of which lands now set for thirty shillings per acre. Nor was Mr. Brunker the only proprietor benefited by his exertions; the more considerable part of this reclaimed land was enjoyed by others, and it is no small reflection on those, who have never since paid their proportions of the expence, although they have had such substantial benefit. When an individual undertakes such a spirited work, he is entitled to every encouragement, if not a national reward. Humphrey Evatt, Esq. of Mount Louisa, has also reclaimed a considerable tract of moor, which he has capitally drained. If these enquiries shall not tend to the proposed advantage, it must certainly be attributed to the want of ability in the compiler; for he very gratefully acknowledges the effectual and excellent information he received from these two latter gentlemen, to whom he is particularly obliged for their kind and warm assistance in this pursuit, as well as for their very friendly and polite attention.

I would beg leave to recommend to the proprietors of these moors, to commence their reclamation with vegetable crops, and to take a succession of them for three years at least, before they lay them down with grass-seeds. I speak from experience, and I assert, they will otherwise soon return to their natural coarse and aqueous herbage. Draining is by all means the leading step, but there is a danger in over-draining, and the wise improver will, if it is possible, in the planning of his drains, reserve the command of a head of water, and he may at all times have the benefit of irrigation, the extraordinary effects of which will be shewn. After draining, the next step should be to burn the surface, and then to cover it well with a good stratum of clay, which should be ploughed into the soil, and a crop of turnips, cabbage, rape, or potatoes sown. After the crop is taken off, the land should be ploughed, and receive another stratum of clay, or gravel, in preference, if it be conveniently had, and a second vegetable crop sown, and a third in like manner, only changing the last manure for lime, after which, the land should be sown with grass-seed, and laid down without a crop: after the first crop of grass it has yielded, it should by all means have a top-dressing; this may be considered expensive, but it will be found to be ultimately the cheapest mode, as, after this process, the land will not require to be broken up, and will yield the choicest herbage; and it should be remembered, that these vegetable crops, which it will yield in the process, will certainly pay the cost of claying
at

at each time, so that, granting it were ten years instead of three in coming round, each year's crop pays the expence of the tillage, and ultimately the proprietor gains a tract of land, made worth several pounds per annum, that was not before of any value.

After marking out the tract of moor to be improved, it should be inclosed by a double ditch; this makes an effectual drain, and gives the intermediate bank as an excellent spot for planting trees; and, being securely defended from cattle, shade and shelter is thus acquired, which is no inconsiderable benefit to agriculture, as well as to grazing husbandry.

SECT. 5. *Minerals.*

ARE lead, antimony, manganese, mica, limestone, marble, coal, iron-stone, soap-stone, hone-stone, free-stone, ochre, marle, fuller's earth, potter's-clay and brick-clay, of the finest quality, and in the greatest abundance.

SECT. 6. *Water.*

ALTHOUGH Monaghan has not one considerable river, yet it is well watered with numerous lakes; the Blackwater bounds it on the Tyrone side, and the great

lakes, which divide the demesnes of Dawson-grove and Bellamont Forest, are also the bounds of this county and that of Cavan on the south-west division. This county has no navigation, yet possesses every requisite; the line from Cootehill (which town is on the borders) to Belturbet and Ballyshannon, would be rendered navigable at a very small expence; but I shall have occasion to speak very particularly of this navigable line, in my Report of the county of Cavan, to which it will more properly belong, as intersecting the whole line of that county. In confining myself to this subject in Monaghan, I shall only observe, that the advantages of that navigation to Ballyshannon, were it adopted, would be incalculable to this district.

But a canal, of the first importance to this country in general, is practicable, and could be attained at a very moderate expence, which would make a direct connection between the two great waters of Lough Neagh and Lough Erne; thus establishing a navigable communication between the eastern and western quarters of Ulster, and opening a line between the Irish Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.

This could be effected by means of the river Finn, which flows in the western part of this county, and discharges its waters into Lough Erne; and, if from thence a cut was made to the Blackwater river, which courses near Caledon on the eastern bounds, and so flows into Lough Neagh, the object would directly be obtained.

In

In making this proposed cut the summit level, the distance now is only fourteen miles from one river to the other, which, of course, would be the length of the new line. The elevation of the summit level above those two great waters is very inconsiderable, as may be seen by following the streams, which flow from each side of it, and, I conceive, would be immediately on that line of the new road from Monaghan to Roslea, in the town-land of Aughnamulla, and parish of Drumfnat. The river Finn is at present navigable from Lough Erne, so high up as Cumber bridge, in this county, within one mile of Clones, and might, at a trifling expence, be made navigable some miles higher up, to the point of junction with the proposed cut. At present, there is a canal from Lough Neagh to Blackwater town, in the county of Armagh, on which there is a considerable trade. The expence of deepening the Caledon river, from the point of junction with the proposed cut, would be of little account.

This canal would pass through the richest, most fertile, and best cultivated parts of the county of Monaghan, convenient to the towns of Monaghan and Clones, and would thus, for a trifling expence (considering the object), open a navigable and direct communication, as I said before, between the eastern and western parts of the province. If lakes can be depended on for the supply of the summit level, there are several very extensive ones above it, which could easily be diverted into this line.

In

In this county there are no less than one hundred and eighty-four lakes, thirty of which are considerable sheets of water ; they will be remarked where they apply more particularly in the Baronial survey.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER II.

STATE OF PROPERTY.

Estates and Tenures.

IN Monaghan the rent-rolls of large estates will be found from near 20,000*l.* to 1000*l.* per annum, and a very considerable part is held in grants from 20*l.* to 500*l.* per annum.

The large estates are in no instance resided on by the immediate proprietors, but the lesser ones are almost uniformly otherwise, and are held in grants from the crown, since the Scotch colony were introduced here; and also a considerable share of these lands were gifts to Cromwell's soldiers, many of whose posterity now enjoy so small a tract, as does not yield above 20*l.* annual income. Few of the farms in the larger estates are set in perpetuity, and the more general term is twenty-one years and a life, or three lives. Alienation is neither opposed nor permitted, generally speaking; nor is it a matter of that material consequence, where leased farms
are

are under the average of ten acres through the county. I suppose, taking the large farms in Monaghan, they would not average twenty-five acres; nor would the small ones, which are far more numerous, average six acres; so that ten may be the mean rate of the whole county. The great object of the occupiers in general is the linen manufacture; they do not look to agriculture, as returning more than is necessary for home consumption; for the corn of Monaghan is by no means sufficient for the supply of its inhabitants, and great quantities are annually imported, inasmuch, that they would be drained of their money, but for the steady return by their manufacture. Where alienation is permitted in an unrestricted sense in tillage counties, it is certainly a grievance to the landlord, as his land is exhausted by repeated croppings, which the occupying tenant is obliged to strain every nerve to raise; as his rent is far above the value, many middle men intervene, each of whom has, of course, a profit. Besides, as a man of capital, or one, who knows the value of his money, will not embark in so ruinous a trade, it happens, that it is the poor peasants only, or crafty knaves, that will take the lands, for which they will promise an exorbitant rent: this rent must be first made, before it is paid, and when the ground has been forced, and its very vitals torn up, so as to cease to yield more crops, it is abandoned by this needy adventurer, and the original proprietor obliged to eject, and at length repossessed

possesses his ground, now exhausted, and his rent perhaps unpaid.

I have heard it asserted, that this clause of non-alienation is illegal, which I am not able to contradict; but I hope, if such is the case, that the necessity for giving the proprietor the power of enforcing it will be seen by the legislature; for I really conceive it the very prime bar to improvement, and the furtherance of agriculture; it has been, in my opinion, the cause of the extravagant rise of every produce of husbandry, upon which trade and every thing else depend; and I am clear, that landlords would find it more to their advantage, to reduce their rents to a reasonable value, which, I believe, will be found at present full twenty per cent. too high, than to permit this gradual and alarming increase, which the non-restriction of, in any sense at present, seems as a tacit encouragement for the continuation of the traffick, inasmuch, that no speculation has as yet overshot it, and which, I fear, the consequences of, will ultimately be of no less moment, than a national bankruptcy.

As exuberances perish by a too rapid growth, so will this folly meet its downfall, by its own extravagance: the additional taxes, which have been laid on, are very severe these twenty years past, and they are appreciated commensurate to the ability of the country, or the price of its commodities. We seldom find these impositions reduced, and, when land falls, as must just now take place, and matters return to their own level, how much more burthensome will be the weight of taxes? This
will

will ultimately fall on the landlord, and his dear bought experience will then shew him his error, when it is too late.

Alienation is the great source, from whence this mischief flows ; speculation and adventure will be found to be the characteristic of the Irish peasant, as well as of the man of capital ; and, as the predominant passions of human nature seldom know due bounds, it should be the care of those intrusted with the affairs of the nation, to enact wholesome laws, able to meet this evil, and apply a vigour commensurate to its neglect, and the necessity for its correction.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER III.

BUILDINGS.

THE buildings of this county are not magnificent, and may be rather styled good family houses, as will be particularly noted.

The farm houses are rather better than in Leinster, with suitable offices, but yet these are enjoyed more as demesnes, and resided on by the proprietors, and cannot be fairly rated as farm houses; and, if considered as the seats of the gentry, they cannot have a report much above mediocriter.

The houses of the third class, or manufacturers, are warm, and of tolerably comfortable appearance; but the poorer class of all, who are the journeymen weavers, and such as inhabit the environs of the towns and villages, are wretchedly bad indeed.

This farmer, if so we may call him, for many of them are not without a portion of garden, pays for this hovel, and bog leave, together with a rood of ground, two guineas per annum, and works at task-work, or for daily pay at his loom (according to agreement), for his landlord, who probably holds from five to ten acres, and, in proportion

proportion to the size of this farm, he employs more or less of these journeymen; as it must be understood, that every farmer, possessing ever so little land, is engaged in the linen manufacture. This description of tenure is called a dry cot-take; such is the name for it in this country.

Another description of tenure is yet between these two described, the occupier of which is also a journeyman weaver, who, with the foregoing privileges, has also the grafs of a cow in winter, for which he pays an additional guinea, but finds his own hay, and his cow's grafs in summer; this is called a wet cot-take, and still is held under the farmer: no lease is ever made of these, but held from year to year, just as the employer and his journeyman agree together. This tenure cannot be styled as an alienation, as nothing is raised from the ground for market, neither has the proprietor any interest in it.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER IV.

MODE OF OCCUPATION.

SECT. I. *Size of Farms and Character of Farmers.*

I Have already stated, that farms in general, or on an average, contain about ten acres, and very little produce, of course, comes to market, except of potatoes or flax, all of which crops, that are required, are grown in the county. The mountains only are divided into extensive walks, and these are so poor and waste, as cannot yet be taken into account; very little proportion of pasture is under dairy, and the feeding grounds are mostly confined to the centre of the county: some of these are excellent, and I shall now describe those I think of the best kind, as it takes in one continued view of fine country, which stretches in a partial direction for a great extent, far beyond our bounds; that, in which we are immediately concerned, extends from the borders of the county, between Cavan and Fermanagh, by Hilton demesne, through the parish of Clones, Killevan, Drumsnat, lower part of Tidavnet, Kilmone, Monaghan,

naghan, and Tyhallen, bounded on the north by the Sleive Baught mountain, on the south by the high grounds, which extend from the county of Cavan, from the neighbourhood of Newbliss, Rockcorry, Ballibay, Clontibritt, and Castleblaney, until they are joined by the Few's mountains in the county of Armagh. The rich vein includes the following denominations; the demesne of Hilton, Gortgrannagh, Ballynure, Shamcoagh, Church-lands, Newbliss village, Aghabog, Smithsborough village, Brandrum, Ballileck, Rossmore park, the parks around the town of Monaghan, Bessmount, Falkland, Castlehane, and Middleton, with the intermediate town lands; these are interspersed with beautiful lakes and streams, which give the farmer all the advantages of water, and a proportionate and not too great a quantity of bog. These lands are equal to any branch of husbandry, and in richness and luxuriance may vie with some of the best improved lands in Ireland.

Farmers have little traffic in that capacity, and, of course, the integrity of their characters does not come much under investigation. I shall only observe, that a very unfair and ridiculous custom prevails, which it is in the power of the farmer to avail himself of, that is, in the sale of potatoes, which is neither appreciated by weight, nor measure, but by the sack, in a bulk price; in this case, it is presumed, the seller knows what his sack will contain, and may impose on the unwary purchaser, who cannot have the same advantage, and possibly may buy
at

at double the price of the article; this is very reprehensible, and ought not to be suffered in a public market.

In the various branches of the tillage of their little crops, they are industrious, and the more considerable labour is the work of their own hands, every crop having the spade and shovel in one or more of its stages, and some have no plough at all; but it will be just now shewn, how slovenly and indifferent they are in their ditching, and how little or no regard is at all paid to planting quicks, which are scarcely seen in this county, but in demesne lands, or in the parks immediately adjoining the towns and villages.

SECT. 2. *Rent.*

RENT has always been paid in specie, since the ancestors of the present occupiers first took possession of this country, and which is still continued; this wise regulation is the present main support of the staple manufacture of the nation, for which nothing but gold is received, from its importation in the seed, till it leaves the country in its finished state. The rents of the great tracts of land, that are enjoyed by non-resident proprietors, cause a great circulation of specie, and I have heard it complained, that the receivers to these estates realize a great deal of money by the rate of exchange, or the discount between gold and bank notes, which is seldom
less

less than two and an half per cent. ; but admitting they are enriched by this means, who are those that are impoverished? It is not the tenant, for where is there one, who is not engaged in manufacture, for which he receives gold, and will take no other payment? Then, why not pay his rent in what he receives? By his obstinacy in refusing to take bank notes, if it is reprehensible, which, I hope, I may not be understood to suggest, he depreciates paper money, then why should he make a monopoly of its benefits? The landlord cannot complain, as he is paid satisfactorily, and the agent runs the risk of bills remitted; and a still better argument for its propriety and good effects, is, that nearly one per cent. is saved to the trader, who would be otherwise obliged to get them specie from Dublin or other markets, the difference of cost being so much on commission, postage, risk, and other contingencies. It must be obvious, that as long as the manufacturer insists on cash for his goods, so long ought he be obliged to pay his rent in gold.

The superabundance, or the profit netted, between the expences of their maintenance, and the return of their manufactures, is very considerable, as has been exemplified in the emigration of so many weavers from this country, these two last years, for America, all of whom went full handed; for allowing, that but five in family accompanied each weaver, it is known, their terms of passage were six guineas per head, round, for which they had ship's provisions; thus, each family must have paid

paid thirty guineas, in specie, for their passage; and how much more must they have had, to afford so much for passage only? It is very remarkable, that they did not take out cloth, as was usual in their adventure; but gold only. It is supposed not less than one thousand families left the northern parts of Ireland this year; allowing but four in family, the passage money of each family will amount to twenty-four guineas, or in toto, to 24,000; add to this, the sums which each may be rated to possess, and the tot becomes very alarming, and the bad consequences may be incalculable.

In how many instances is the enterprising spirit of this nation proved, and how many emigrants are there, who after having gone to America, on the like speculation, have returned home worse than they set out, which, doubtless, will be the case with many of these, too credulous adventurers, after their money is exhausted, and so much lost to the nation. The wise laws, which the legislature have enacted, to counteract this evil, have been too leniently dispensed with; whatever tends to forward the common-weal, can never be deemed tyrannical, and for the sake of those mistaken individuals, as well as for the national interest, they should be strictly enforced, as the whim for emigration has already had alarming consequences, and at present seems to know no bounds.

The beggarly system of extorting duties from tenants is so shamefully reprehensible, in this enlightened age, that it is surprising to see such clauses still insisted on in

leases. It is not on such paltry considerations, that men of rank and fortune should hold their superiority, and if such pitiful dues are beneath them to accept, as poultry, eggs, &c. then why insert them in their leases, which have no meaning, but may be productive of the worst and most tyrannical consequences to the tenant, if a receipt is not regularly passed for his duties as well as his rent, because a penal sum is always inserted, to be recovered in like manner as rent, if the duties should not be paid.

This is the most disgraceful vestige of the feudal system, and, I hope, has nothing to be advanced in plea of its continuance.

SECT. 3. *Tithes.*

It is with reluctance I enter on this subject, as being only a recapitulation of grievances, which there seems little chance of being meliorated; and it is very extraordinary, when the principle itself is not considered the hardship, but the impositions in the mode of collecting the tax, that the legislature will not interpose its authority by making such emendations in this law, as will be consonant to justice, and give general satisfaction. I cannot agree in the hacknied phrase of the hardship of tithes *in toto*, for, as land is purchased, or rented, liable to this imposition, is not the amount of
it

it to be calculated before rent is offered? and thus it is the landlord, and not the tenant, who is the original sufferer. In some parts of this county, it is a matter of complaint, that the tillage fields should be titheable, which the poor man cultivates for his support, and the rich grafs demefnes, be the quantity ever fo great, only pay fixpence annually for their meadow; this appears a monftrous inequality without being investigated; but who is the sufferer? why, the landlord all the while; it is his tillage fields which pay the tithe, and his rents are depreciated by this tax: for where is the farm, tithe free, that would not bring, at leaft, double the value of what it may be affeffed to, if it were not liable to this tax? I do not wifh it fhould be underftood that I am an advocate for this impofition; I only argue, that in its principle, it bears on the proprietor of the land, and not on the tenant; in the mode of its collection it oppreffes the poor man moft grievoufly, and there are feveral inftances of the tithe of a parifh being divided into three parts, and each fet to a different proctor, that it might come the better within their grasp.

If a modus was eftablifhed between the incumbent and the occupier, which might be done by mutual confent, without any recourfe to law, and thefe middle men or proctors difcontinued, then, I am convinced, that the clergymen would be better paid, and the difcontent removed; or, if an acreable tax was laid on, and collected by the high conftable, it could be proportioned to the value of the incumbency; if by this means it fhould

be considered, that the clergyman would be cut out from the advantage of the rise of the times, let him have the same benefit as a proprietor in the setting of his land, and let this tenure be terminable and subject to a revision every ten or twenty years; this, I think, would answer every objection. The cruelty and savage oppression of leaning on the ignorant peasant, as proctors too generally do, ought to be investigated; these wretches have not ability to contest the matter, and thus are victims at the mercy of those rapacious plunderers.

Or if it were the opinion of the legislature, that the tax ought to be entirely got clear of, surely a very obvious mode is presented in the sale of the tithes and church lands. These would be readily purchased by the landed proprietors, as removing an imposition, which reduces the value of their grounds, and by this means a fund would be established for the maintenance of the clergy, the interest of which would be more than sufficient to pay the annual present dues; and the redundancy might be appropriated to increase the salary of the curate, which is confessedly inadequate to his maintenance. Thus, those obstacles would be removed, which at present are the greatest bars to the improvement of agriculture; content would be restored, and every fair play allowed to a grateful soil, which, from the present mismanagement, and impolitic grievances that affect it, yields not one half the produce, for which it has ample capabilities,

capabilities, and proves the immense loss, that annually occurs to the nation.

SECT. 4. *Establishment for the Poor.*

THE alarming scarcity of the years 1800 and 1801, has shewn the necessity of forming an establishment for the poor; and already have the inhabitants here badged the poor of each parish, and have come to the resolution of only contributing to the paupers of their respective parishes; this necessarily has provided a subsistence for these unfortunate people, whose wages are by no means equal to the exorbitant cost of provisions for a family; but it still shews the necessity of an establishment, as the poor of a very indigent parish would in this case starve, if the regulation was rigidly adhered to; for then they would not be relieved out of their parish, which might be unequal to the task, by reason of its own poverty.

I shall therefore propose a scheme for this purpose, following the Dublin Society's suggestion, in inserting Mr. Pew's advice on the poor rates of England, which I have also done in the other counties I have had the honor to inspect; and, from this proposed scheme, some valuable hints may be adopted, for the foundation of a parochial establishment, which may possibly avert the burthen of legal poor rates, as there may yet a necessity occur for their establishment, if prior and wise voluntary regulations

regulations shall not have taken place. I shall only remark, that, in so populous a county, a very small subscription, from each individual, would be sufficient to answer every emergency.

*Heads of Mr. Pew's twenty minutes advice on the
POOR LAWS.*

“ 1st. That a proper officer be appointed for such extent of district as he may be supposed conveniently to superintend, to take a list of the names and places of abode, of all males above the age of eighteen, and of all females above the age of seventeen years, in the same manner as the list is made out for the militia.

“ 2d. That every such male pay two-pence per week, and every such female three farthings or one penny per week, in the hands of the above officer, for the purposes hereafter to be specified.

“ 3d. That the above officer shall be empowered to furnish employment for all such as are willing to work, and who cannot find it for themselves.

“ Whether this officer should be chosen annually in rotation, after the manner of an overseer, or whether he should be a permanent officer, upon an adequate salary, will be matter of future consideration; but, if the latter, he should be paid by the community, and not out of the fund.

“ 4th.

" 4th. All the poor being thus sure of employment, the master or mistress, for whom they work, should be justified in retaining these sums respectively out of their wages; and, whether they do so or not, they should (in default of the individual) be answerable to the officer for its payment; all masters and mistresses of families should in like manner be answerable for their servants; and all keepers of lodging houses, &c. for their inmates.

" 5th. These sums should be carried weekly to the general treasurer of the *division*, who should give sufficient security for the same.

" 6th. Out of this fund, every male, who is really incapable of labour, should (by virtue of a certificate from the above officer) have A RIGHT TO DEMAND from the treasurer five shillings per week for the first six months, should his illness last so long, and four shillings per week after that period, until he again becomes capable of labour.

" Every female should have A RIGHT TO DEMAND 2s. 6d. per week for the first six months, and afterwards 2s. per week, until she was again able to work; she should be entitled to four weeks full pay at every lying-in.

" Every male above the age of sixty-five years, whether capable of labour or not, should be entitled to 4s. per week during life. Every female should, after the same age, be entitled to receive 2s. per week during life.

" 7th.

" 7th. Any person having three children under nine years of age, should be entitled to 1s. 6d. per week, until the eldest should have attained the age of nine years; and if he has more than three under that age, he should be entitled to 1s. 6d. per week for each, above that number; and, if any one or more of his children should happen to be idiotick, insane, or otherwise so far disabled, either in body or mind, as to be utterly incapable of labour, each of them should be considered as under the age of nine years, and paid for accordingly.

" If a mother should be left a widow, with three children under nine years of age, she should be entitled to receive 5s.; if with two children, 3s.; and if with one child, 1s. 6d. per week; if with more than three under that age, 1s. for each above that number: it being admitted, that all her time is taken up by three, and allowance made for it, but that she is incapable of looking after and taking care of a greater number. The wives of men serving in the militia, and in the army or navy, should, during the absence of their husbands, be considered and provided for in all respects as widows.

" If a child should be left an orphan under nine years of age, 2s. per week shall be allowed from the fund for its maintenance; if more than one of the same family, 1s. 6d. per week for each, above that number. As there is probably no less friendship amongst the lower than amongst the higher orders of society, it would generally happen, that some friend or relation of the deceased would gladly take charge of the children, provided

provided they could do so without essential loss to themselves: this regulation would effectually prevent that loss; and, to compensate in some degree, for the want of parental affection, 6*d.* per week more is allowed for the maintenance of an orphan, or a family of orphans, than for a child, or family of children, who still retain their mother. If, however, any beings should be so uncommonly unfortunate as not to be thus adopted, the officer above mentioned should be obliged to provide a receptacle for them, which he will always be able to do for the sum or sums above mentioned.

“ 8th. All children above nine years of age, if in health, should, if they have no parents, or their parents are not able to provide for them, be put out after the manner of parish apprentices.

“ 9th. All persons neglecting or refusing to pay their contribution, should be committed to hard labour, in the house of correction, for the space of

“ 10th. If the fund should any time fall short of the necessary demands upon it, the deficiency should be made up by a parish rate, collected in the same manner as at present, but without any sense of obligation on the part of the multitude, (for there would be NO POOR) who should in all cases receive their relief **IN THE NATURE OF A DEMAND.**

“ 11th. If the fund (as most probably would happen) should increase beyond the necessary demands upon it, the surplus should on no account be diverted to any other purpose, than the benefit of the subscribers. But
when

when the price of grain exceeded that, which brings it easily within the reach of the multitude, every person, who had three children or more under nine years of age, should have a right to demand such a sum, in proportion to the number of his family, as would reduce the various necessities of life (taking wheat at a standard) to a moderate price; and indeed, I think, in all cases, when the price of grain exceeds that proportion, at which the industrious labourer can afford to come to market, sound policy, as well as common humanity, requires that all large families should be entitled to receive such a sum as above specified, although it should be necessary to collect a rate for the purpose."

This system certainly would not apply in every instance to Ireland; the rate would certainly be near one half too high, and it would require several material alterations. The wives and children of militia men are already provided for by act of parliament; but an excellent establishment for the poor might be formed from the heads of these rules; and if such a modification was adopted, and the example set by the proprietor of a large estate, making it a binding clause on the residents on his lands to observe certain rules, the happiest consequences would doubtless be the result, and would soon be generally followed.

SECT.

SECT. 5. *Leases.*

THE term of leases generally is for lives, or one life, that a freehold should be established; the period of years seldom exceeds twenty-one. Quit and crown rent always fall on the landlord; all other taxes made, or to be made, the tenant is liable to.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE USUAL CLAUSES IN
LEASES.

1st. A reserve to the proprietor and his assignees, of all manner of game, and other royalties, mines and minerals, as coals, quarries of marble and stone, freestone, limestone, and slate; springs, waters, water-courses, turbaries, and all timber, whether over or under ground.

2d. Covenant to do suit and service at manor court, and to grind corn at manor mill.

3d. To join with neighbouring tenants to make sufficient fences.

4th. To make new ditches, and plant trees and quicks.

5th. To permit landlord to search for mines.

6th. Not to alienate or mortgage, under penalty of double rent.

7th.

7th. To oblige tenant to restore to the premises all dung made thereon, under penalty of 10s. per car-load carried off.

8th. Not to pare or burn the land. *This is seldom enforced.*

9th. Not to break up more than a certain portion of land for last three years of lease.

10th. To exhibit and prove lives in leases, to exist at stated periods, once every three years, together with the usual clauses, that are in all leases, binding on the part of both landlord and tenant.

CHAPTER

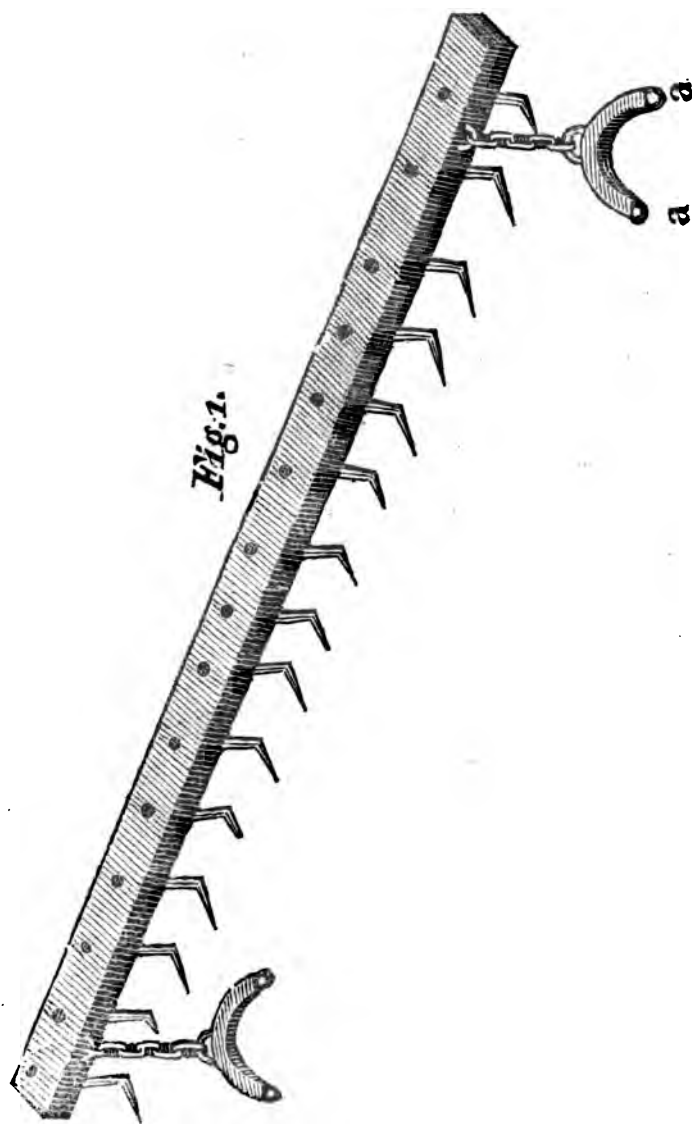


Fig. 1.

HAY-RAKE, drawn by one Horse, from eight to ten Feet long.

a. a. Eyes to receive the Hooks of the Swindle-Tree.

CHAPTER V.

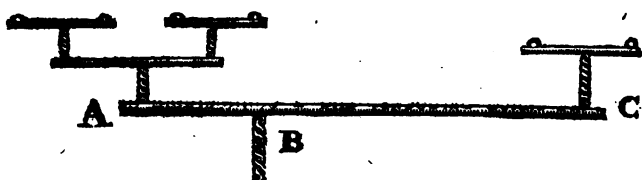
IMPLEMENTS.

UNTIL within these few years, there was not one improved implement of husbandry in the county, and but very few at this day. The Scotch ploughs are coming into good repute, and, in the reclaiming of moor, will be found very proper; their cost, 4*l.* sterling, full mounted. The farms being so small, wheel cars are little required. Dung and manure of all kinds are carried in baskets, slung across a horse's back, and are called bardocks, and a considerable quantity is carried in a basket on a hand-barrow: there is no county, where there is more manual labour. The car, which they use for carrying dung, has no wheels, but consists of two long shafts, the ends of which are shod with a plate of iron, and are drawn on the ground like a sledge: about half way up, those shafts are connected by three or four bars, morticed through; and on this stage, a basket or bardock is placed, in which the manure is carried. This is a very cheap implement, and costs but six shillings; the timber of it will be furnished for three shillings, the iron plates and making for three more. This

car

car is necessary in wet grounds, where wheels would sink, and cut the ground; it was for this purpose it was invented. The common Irish harrow, consisting of twenty-one pins, is the only one in use, and is worked by one horse. The spade has two foot-steps, and differs from the English garden spade, inasmuch, as it is hollow, and the centre is filled with timber, which the handle is reduced to fit, in a sloping form: this costs four shillings, with handle.

The shovel and pitchfork are the same as seen through the kingdom: cost of the former, mounted, 2s. 8½d.; latter, 1s. 7½d. The plough, more generally used in this country, is worked by three horses, which are yoked after the following manner.



Let the right line A B C represent the swindle-tree, to which the long chain is yoked, from four feet and a half to five feet long, three inches broad, and two thick: the usual iron hooks and rings, here called cut weddys, are fixed to each end; the intermediate space is next divided into three equal divisions; at one end (A) is fixed the tree for two horses; at one-third of the length of the beam from the point (A) is fixed the chain (B),
by

by which the beam is attached to the plough ; at the end (C) the remaining two-thirds of the length of the beam, distant from the chain (B), is fixed the one horse tree ; the weight or draft is thus exactly divided amongst the three horses. Let the beam (A C) represent the Roman balance, suspended by, and turning on its axis on the chain (B); the arm (B C) being twice the length of the arm (A B), it follows, by the known rules of that power, that it will require twice the weight at the point (A), to act as a counterpoise to a given weight at the point (C); or, in other words, two horses pulling from the point (A), will be no more than a match (or counterpoise) for one horse at the point (C). This plough-draft has its advantages ; when land is to be worked, too strong for two horses, and yet not requiring four, there is an evident saving : the greatest fault appears, that the single horse is always walking on the ploughed ground ; a serious objection for a seed ploughing, in either a wet soil or season.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER VI.

INCLOSING, FENCES, &c.

THROUGH the far greater part of this county, the fences are in a wretched state, and almost a wide extended common in the winter season. In the barony of Cremourne there is scarcely ever a year's ditch made, and no appearance of quicking at all; the only fence is a small mound of earth thrown up, which appears to be more a temporary mark of the boundaries of farms, than an actual fence.

As to stone walls, they have no such improvement; there is not a demesne in the county which is thus inclosed.

In the barony of Monaghan they now pay attention to this very necessary branch in husbandry, of good fences, and have planted in their ditches a very tolerable allowance of quicks. The expence of making the ditch seven feet deep, and six feet wide at top, reducing to two at bottom, is 1s. 7½d. per running perch. Quicks are sold for 4s. 4d. the thousand, so that the quantum necessary for a perch, at four inches asunder, will amount to three-pence; and the full cost of ditching and quicking will be 1s. 10½d. per perch.

There

There is also an inclination shewn for planting trees on the tops of the ditches; it would be well to confine these to the reclaimed moors, where a double ditch could be afforded for their preservation: the fence requires to be very good, to protect them so many years from cattle, in these exposed situations, and here they have not the best materials.

FARM YARDS.

At Glaslough is an excellent inclosed farm-yard, and, with the proposed additions, will be a most complete one indeed, and on a very large scale.

The barn should be always floored with timber, and, if possible, built so, as to leave an office underneath; this particularly secures it from vermin, which is a matter of the first consequence; and, if the loss to the farmer was exposed, through the mistake of the old construction of barns, it would shew the necessity for paying the utmost attention to this office.

LIME-KILNS.

Where the manure of lime has such powerful effects as in this country, and where the limestone is so very scarce, it is a matter of moment to erect the kiln on an

economical scheme. The annexed plan is the most modern and best approved, and its construction is by no means expensive.

ROADS.

Considering the materials for making roads are not of the best, as limestone and gravel are not abundant, the roads of Monaghan are in pretty good repair.

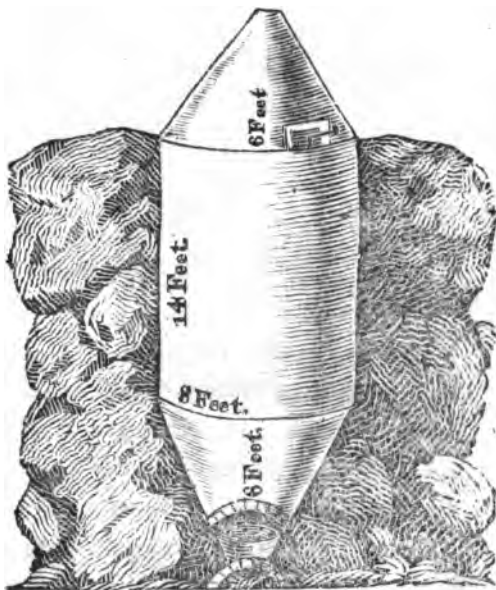
The following may be the average of cels laid on the different baronies, for the making of new roads, repairs, &c.

Cremourne,	£.650
Dartrey, -	560
Farney, -	600
Monaghan, -	879
Trough, -	499
<hr/>	
£.3,800 in roads,	
<hr/>	

And about 1,150*l.* is laid on the county at large for bridges, and all contingencies, making altogether, on an average, about 4,230*l.* In considering the county cels, a very obvious error exists, of obliging the parish, where an offence has been committed, (such as burning, robbery, &c.) to make good the damage. Quære, would it not rather tend to the discovery of the offender, and be more consonant to justice, if the parish should be exonerated

IMPROVED LIME KILN,
INVENTED BY
THOMAS JAMES RAWSON, ESQ.
OF CARDINGTON,
IN THE
COUNTY OF KILDARE.

To face page 66—County of Monaghan Survey.



A lime-kiln should be made as high as the situation of the ground will admit; 20 feet is better than 16, 30 better than 20. The sides should be perpendicular. The annexed view is for 20 feet high; the proportions should vary with the height. At bottom a metal plate with holes, should be placed six inches above the lower part, to admit air, and for the shovel to run on in drawing.

The drawing part should be six feet; width, 8 feet; perpendicular sides, 14 feet; on the head a cap is placed, formed like an extinguisher, brought to a hole at top of 12 inches diameter; in the side of the cap an iron door, with a latch is placed, to admit the charging the kiln, and to be kept close shut. A kiln built on this plan will burn 9 barrels of lime for each of culm, and any sized stones may be thrown in. Two active labourers must attend it.

OF THE COUNTY OF MONAGHAN. 67

be exonerated of the entire burthen, when they discovered the perpetrator of the mischief, and only be cessed in a rateable proportion with the county at large, on which this fine ought more properly be imposed.

The general allowance for new roads is from eight to ten shillings per perch, and two to five shillings for repairing old roads, according to the state they are in, but there is not a turnpike road through the county. They repair the roads with a flaty stone, which is broken with sledges, and soon becomes pulverized; in general, they want good materials.

TASK WORK.

Mowing is undertaken by task work, at from three shillings to five shillings per acre; threshing wheat, thirteen pence, and oats seven pence per barrel; turf cutting and rearing, when the bank is the employer's, will amount to about three pence per statute kish.

Reaping is agreed for by daily hire, for which there is no regular modus, but according to the demand for labour, in which diet is most commonly included, but in fact, few farmers have any great occasion for labourers, if there are two men or grown boys in a family: they leave the loom for a short period, in the busy time of the year, and can easily accomplish all the work of their very limited plots. The gentlemen farmers are those who employ labourers constantly, and the cottiers,

who are not numerous, are generally equal to their business.

Now that the reclaiming of moor is begun to be pursued, and the value of this important improvement understood, we may expect to see more hands employed, and a better attention to husbandry in every branch.

Handicrafts of every description, in country business, will earn about two shillings and two pence per day; I do not include weavers. The linen manufacture, which is the most steady pursuit of this county, and their grand dependence, will be treated of minutely and separately, when we come to consider the head of political economy. I shall now give a description of the state of each barony; in which many of those heads already touched on will be more particularly considered, and enlarged on. In these baronial reports, the detail, as suggested by the Dublin Society in the abstract, as inserted in the preface, will be individually enquired into, and by this means, in the revival of those reports, the gentlemen of the county, to whom they will be submitted, will have the best opportunity of pointing out where they are inefficient, and by adding their opinions, a more perfect statement can be given in the next edition of the work.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER VII.

BARONY OF CREMOURNE.

SECT. I.

Agriculture.

IN this barony the mode of culture is generally with a plough of three horses abreast, which, though it appears a very awkward draft, yet on examination will be found to be correct and fairly proportioned, as is explained in the fifth chapter.

They first plough the ley for potatoes, mark out the trenches, and harrow lengthways; the succeeding crop is flax, of which they sow four bushels to the acre; this is valued at from twelve pounds to twenty pounds, when standing; next follows oats, and then they cashier fallow the ground for rest, which, being naturally inclined to grafs, will assist the pasturage of their cows. The average produce of the acre of potatoes, forty barrels of twenty-eight stone per barrel; oats eight to ten barrels, of fourteen stone.

The

The extent of the tillage may be averaged by stating the appropriation of a farm of ten acres, and five acres, as follow :—

<i>Ten Acre Farm.</i>		<i>Five Acre Farm.</i>	
	<i>Acre.</i>		<i>Acre.</i>
Potatoes	$1\frac{1}{2}$	Potatoes	1
Flax	$\frac{1}{2}$	Flax	$\frac{1}{2}$
Oats	4	Pasture	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Meadow	$1\frac{3}{4}$	Oats	$1\frac{3}{4}$
Pasture	2	House, garden, yard, &c.	$\frac{1}{4}$
House, garden, yard, &c.	$\frac{1}{4}$		
	<hr/> Acres 10 <hr/>		<hr/> Acres 5 <hr/>

Flax always follows potatoes, and generally the remainder of potatoe land is occupied with a patch of clover, and barley; the small farmers are seldom without a little clover; and they find the best account in this wholesome herbage for their cows; when grain is sold it is generally in the sheaf, and seldom comes to market. Castleblaney is the market town, but excepting the webs sold there, it would not be worth attending. The implements of husbandry are only, a very badly constructed plough, single harrow, spade of the fashion described, common to the county, in the fifth chapter, and shovel, fork, and flail. The country not being at all occupied in feeding sheep or fat cattle, they have never yet cultivated any green food for winter supply; but they are not strangers to the value of the tops of furze and whins, which are an excellent and strong food, very greedily eaten by horses; they are first

first put in a stone trough, and chopped or pounded with a wooden sledge, and are very juicy. Land will average, in this barony, from fifteen to twenty shillings per acre.

CHOICE OF CROPS.

Nothing can be more injudicious, than to crop the ground successively with strong corn crops; or indeed to give two corn crops without an intermediate green crop, where it can be made use of; but granting, that there is little occasion for a vegetable crop, as in this country is the case, in the present mode of farming, care should be had not to crop the ground with a succession of strong grain. Why are oats and barley sowed after wheat? but because the soil has yielded all the juices, which were fitted for this strong corn in one crop; and what remain are proper for the vegetation of lighter grain, as barley or oats. Vegetable crops differ from corn, as they enrich, rather than exhaust, revigorate, rather than hurt the soil, and it is easily accounted for; for the roots of such crops are grosser and longer than those of corn, and divide the soil, whilst those of corn close and cement it, shutting it up from the power of the atmosphere: the two crops are served by principles diametrically opposite, as heat and drought, which serve corn, will, if carried to a great degree, destroy and kill potatoes or other green crops: the potatoe,

tatoc, or that part, which is concealed in the ground, draws its nutriment from the moisture of the atmosphere, and imbibes it downward through the succulent stalk, whereas the corn draws its vegetation from heat, first inhaling on the superficial root, and shooting upwards; it is very evident, this is directly opposite to the potatoe, which is injured when the tube of its stalk is destroyed by the heat, for which reason, we should prefer moist ground for potatoes, and the reverse for corn.

SECT. 2. *Pasture.*

THE grass of this district is light and spiry, scarcely equal to fat cows to three and an half cwt. on the average return of the whole. The pasture is always either rushy or spritty; the difference between these two kinds of coarse herbage, is, that spirit grass has a hollow tube, and is more proper for mechanical uses, as making of mats for various purposes, being very tough, and rushes are filled with a solid pith, which is brittle when dried, but scarcely any nutriment for cattle is in either. The black cattle are of a poor stunted breed, wild and coarse, and they are usually bought when yearlings, or at two years old; their price from thirty shillings to five guineas: they are generally sent first to mountain farms, which rate at from three shillings to eight shillings per acre, and sold out in springers, at from seven guineas

guineas to eight guineas; in six months the cost of grazing may be about one third of the profit, but the net profit, after all expences, will average thirty shillings per head. I never saw such ill proportioned or misshapen bulls, which, until they are exchanged for a better kind, there can be no chance of improving the breed.

There are no sheep fed in this barony, nor does the soil seem at all calculated for them.

They only house milch cows in the winter, or very weak springers; the cattle being without a good pasture, or shelter, have great disadvantages to encounter, and require much care in severe weather. Excepting the plot of clover, and a little rye grass, they sow no other artificial herbage; butter is sold in small parcels, in Castle Blaney, from five pounds to fifty pounds weight, at about eight pence halfpenny, average price, per pound; these go from hence to Newry, where they are tubbed for the provision trade, but they never make cheese, though the soil is not unfavourable to dairy; the very limited size of their farms prevents their breeding any horses in this district, and they are generally bought at fairs in the county of Cavan.

At Castle Blaney, is an inconsiderable tan yard, which has some little trade in hides, but of wool or tallow they have no kind of manufacture at home, nor does their country supply any of these commodities.

The meadows are always light, and the hay is generally sold in cocks, in the field, which are fraudulently made

made up, when intended for sale; one of these cocks will contain about twelve cwt. of hay, though they appear to have nearer twenty cwt.; the value is generally about twenty-five shillings per cock, sold in the field; when hay is sold in spring, it is weighed out, and sometimes, in a scarce season, will rate so high as from five to six pounds per ton.

LUCERNE.

The great excellence in this grass, is the quantity of juice and moisture, which it contains, in so much that the greatest drought and hottest summer does not affect it, when all other grasses (even clover) are burnt up, and withered; it choaks all weeds and other grasses, that are within its reach, except rye grass, and clover, which are found very beneficial with it; the quantity of green fodder, which it yields, is considerable, and it gives a very fine hay; it grows from two to three feet high, when in its prime, but where it is thinly scattered, it exceeds that height. It is frequently cut three or four times in one year; one acre of this grass will feed four cows and two horses, in the summer; it requires to be both hand and horse hoed, and is sowed in drills about two feet asunder; when transplanted, it is generally at the same distance; its growth is very rapid, being frequently cut thrice for hay in the months of July and August, and will yield about three and an half tons to the Irish acre. It agrees on a loam or gravelly soil; it
only



LUCERNE HARROW,

Drawn by one Horse.

DESCRIPTION.

- a. a. Two bars of wood, seven feet long.
 - b. b. Cross bars, one foot five inches.
 - c. c. Eyes to receive the hooks.
- The teeth are one foot long, and it is drawn by one horse.

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only requires to be known amongst us to be in great estimation; without experience, we can have little idea of its value.

SECT. 3. *Farms.*

ARE let out from twenty to five acres, but the general size may be about ten acres; the peasants here are all linen weavers, yet poorer than those in other parts, and are rather more engaged in husbandry than where they are wealthier; this shews that the main pursuit of this county should be manufacture, for which it is so extremely well adapted in every respect.

Every farmer here has from one to two horses, and the same number of cows are proportioned to the size of their farms, and they generally hold land enough to supply them with milk, meal and potatoes; what redundancy of oats they may have, along with their manufacture, will pay their rent; the remainder of the farm is generally set in cot-take, to journeymen, as before described, and this is a profitable way of managing their spare plots.

The tenant is obliged to keep his house in repair, but in general they are wretchedly mean, and very badly covered, yet I am told considerably bettered within the last ten years; the tenure is held by lease, for three lives or thirty-one years. Tenants pay every tax but quit

quit and crown rent. The church rates amount to about six pence per acre,

There is no such thing as a large tillage farm ; the fences are extremely bad ; the ditches are bald and the worst constructed that can be ; not a quickset hedge for many miles around ; and, excepting in the demesne of Castle Blaney, there is not the least appearance of timber of any kind in this part of the country. In winter, this whole district is one great common, for there is not the least attention paid to ditching, but when the seed is in the ground, and then so poor a fence is thrown up, that it surely falls before winter.

This soil is very favourable to the growth of quicks, and leaves no excuse for this intolerable neglect ; where such small farms are held, surely they might be more easily kept neat, and dressed. These lands are very wet and spongy, yet they do not attempt to drain them.

Lime best agrees with the soil, when applied hot from the kiln ; they manure for potatoes with bog stuff mixed with lime and dung ; limestone is not to be had in the neighbourhood, and from the more general parts of the barony is six miles distant, and in some places not less than from ten to twelve, nor have they any limestone gravel, or gravel of any kind, which after draining would so capitally agree with this soil. The limestone from the neighbourhood of Carrickmacross is preferable, and is had both in block, and in quarry ; the latter is the best and most easily calcined.

WATERING

WATERING CROPS;

How little do we attend to the watering of our crops, which could be effected with so trifling an expence? In corn crops, one or two waterings will be sufficient, in an early stage, if the season has been dry, and will force them very early and abundant; but in the culture of potatoes, in a dry summer, it is indubitably necessary. I saw, last year, an high upland, light gravelly soil, which was watered in dry weather, once a fortnight, for about six shillings per acre expence, and this was continued for six weeks, which increased the cost of the crop eighteen shillings per acre; but the produce was infinitely the best in the county, when land, much better calculated for potatoes, did not yield a crop worth digging, although it had been highly dunged; how well the expence was repaid, the reader may judge by the produce of this crop, which returned an hundred and forty barrels to the acre; in the most favoured season, that townland never was known to produce half that quantity, though richly manured; irrigation on meadow land is well known to exceed any surface dressing, that has yet been tried, besides being the cheapest process, that could be applied.

Where water cannot be turned over the surface at pleasure, it is done by a cask slung, horizontally, between two steady horses, with a narrow trough under the cock-end; this trough is pierced with holes, and the

the water is discharged directly over the drill or ridge, so that none goes to waste.

GENERAL SUBJECTS.

This district bears its proportion of the great population of the county, but the people are all in the small manufacturing business. Scarcely a cabin is to be seen without a loom or two, and many of the occupiers rent the cabin and the looms from the master weaver, who only may be said to be above want. The journeyman must be an expert tradesman, if he can earn 18*d.* per day, when the trade is not very brisk; but these wages were fully sufficient to the supply of his family, prior to the two late years of scarcity. The women spin all the yarn, and are extremely industrious; many of them will earn 6*d.* per day: the children are also employed, and will earn from 2*d.* to 4*d.* per day, so that the more numerous the family is, the better they can afford to live, and their united industry often makes a daily return of 5*s.* or 6*s.* per day in one house.

In this neighbourhood, they never save the seed of their flax, but buy all, which is imported from America or Holland; the latter is by far the best. They sow the seed in the latter end of April, and pull the flax in harvest. The general process of the whole country being alike, in the various branches of the linen manufacture, I shall endeavour to give a very minute description of it, after the baronial statement is finished.

Castle-

Castle-Blaney is now a fine new-built town, the estate of Lord Viscount Blaney. The market-place is of triangular form, and a very neat market-house has been lately built in its centre, on the rise of a hill, and the streets branch off from each angle. The situation of the market-house is very commanding, and on high ground, overlooking every avenue, that leads to the tower, and the second story contains a spacious room. Above the roof is a neat belfry, and the whole building is well constructed, and is ornamental. The inn was built and furnished at the expence of Lord Blaney, and here the traveller finds most excellent accommodation, which is by no means equalled in any part of the county. There is in this town an excellent brewery, and, as I before remarked, but an inconsiderable tan-yard. I have shewn in Sir John Davis's letter, as copied in the introduction, that Sir Edward Blaney, who was governor of Monaghan, did in the reign of James I. build a castle here, for and in consideration of the grant in fee, of two ballibetags being made to him by the crown; for the town of Monaghan, which was inland, and then rated as distant twenty-four miles from Newry, was supplied with provisions from thence; and, in the constant wars, that in those times prevailed, it was a matter of great difficulty to transport the supplies safely for such a length of way. Therefore this castle was erected as a halting-place of safety for the royal troops, and for this consideration, Sir Edward Blaney got the grant of the fine estate, which his posterity has since enjoyed.

The

The dependants and vassals of their lords naturally resided under the protection of a garrison, which will be found to have been the cause and origin of the building of most of the villages and towns in Ireland, and here it was so.

But this town was never of any consequence until a linen market was established here; and, from the great encouragement given to tenants by the present lord, the town has been entirely rebuilt with excellent stone houses, almost all of them two stories high, and well slated. The town plots are all set in perpetuity. The linen market is held on Wednesday, and is very well supplied; the average sale in this market per week, is estimated at 500*l*. A considerable quantity of yarn and flax is also sold here, and the penalties very severe on defaulters in this, and every branch of the linen manufacture, as will be particularly shewn. For all these articles the buyer must pay in specie, as, with the weavers, nothing else is current. In this market no grain is exposed for sale, nor is there an acre of wheat in the whole barony; indeed, in its present state, nothing could be worse adapted. Oats, as I have said, is bought in sheaf, and but a very trivial portion of this corn, oatmeal, and potatoes, is sold by retail; the average price of the former (the two late years excepted) will be about 12*s*. per cwt., and, of the latter, 2*d*. per stone, of which they grow a sufficiency for home consumption, the soil being very favourable, but, rarely or never, of oats; the supply of this grain is principally from Louth and
Longford

Longford counties. Barley is but very little cultivated in Cremourne; the soil being cold, wet, and gritty, it would not agree with it. The lands are only improveable by lime. The habitations throughout are very miserable indeed, and only improving about Castle-Blaney; within doors, they have an appearance of comfort, and the exterior nearly approaches to neatness. One mile eastward of Castle-Blaney is a small village, and near to it is Blaney Lodge, which is a very neat little farm and cottage, that shews great improvement, and the excellence of lime manure.

Castleshane is a small mean village, situate eight miles distant, north-west of Castle-Blaney, and is but three miles from Monaghan, where adjoins the handsome seat of Mr. Lucas. This gentleman's demesne is excellent land, equal to fat cows to six cwt.; being in the heart of that fine vein, which I described as passing through a partial district of Monaghan. Here are some young plantations, and the fences are in excellent order. The dreary prospect of eight miles continuance from Castle-Blaney, on this line of road, without hedgerow, tree, or thorn, and a wild, extensive, uninterrupted waste in the winter season, overrun with bog and hills, little better than mountain, and the most perished spongy pasture, is agreeably relieved by this demesne, to which the surrounding wilds afford a striking contrast. From hence to Monaghan, limestone and gravel is

found, and, in some places, the land is better managed, and shews a more grateful soil.

This barony is well supplied with turf fuel, which can be purchased in the summer season for about 5*d.* the horse-load on the bog, and can be made up at one-third less cost.

The food of all the peasantry is potatoes and oatmeal; the former diet they prefer, and those, who hold land, or rather pay more attention to it than to manufacture, (one-fourth of the population not coming under this description) are seldom able to afford better than salt with their potatoes, and sell their milk to weavers.

They are all, however, tolerably supplied with linen; shoes and stockings are worn by all, both male and female; but their woollen clothes are very bad indeed, and dearly had. In the neighbouring towns, the shops are poorly supplied with coarse frizes, and narrow stuffs; the general cost of the former 3*s.* and of the latter 10*d.* per yard. Rent of cabin, without garden, 20*s.* per annum, to 30*s.* Average rent of five acre farm, with cottage, 25*s.* per acre.

Price of wages, 8*d.* per day in winter, 10*d.* in summer; but there is no constant labour for cottiers. Oats the only grain in Clontibrett parish, which returns tithe, as none others are sown, and the crop is valued every year, and rated according to its excellence; if valued at ten barrels to the acre, it pays 6*s.* per acre. In the other parishes, potatoes are also titheable, and one shilling is charged for any quantity of meadow, be it
more

more or less; but wheat and bere, if sowed, would be liable to tithe, according to produce or valuation. A farmer can rent his tithes from the proctor during the incumbent's tenure, for about 3s. an acre, which so far establishes a modus.

The beer, that is brewed in Castle-Blaney, is very good, and, since spirits have risen in price, there is a great demand for this excellent beverage. The malt used there is had from Newry, or more distant towns, as so little barley is sown in this country.

The nature of the soil throughout, is a cold grit, and very deep clay, spongy and rusty. The whole face of the country is mountainous, and lies favourably for improvement of planting: the irregularity of the surface, and the contrast of the lakes, so well dispersed, would assist to render it a beautiful scene; but, in the cold forbidding view, which is now presented, this happy diversity, which might be so considerably improved, only serves to render a contrary effect. Encircled within the narrow vale of these hills, the hopes of the traveller for a more engaging prospect in the approaching view are disappointed at the long and continued disgusting waste. There are several kinds of clay and ochres on these lands, which only can be well applied to the manufacture of bricks. Near Castle-Blaney lead ore has been found in a very shallow vein, and also coarse potter's clay. Contiguous to the church of Clontibrett, and a few perches to the eastward of it, a lead mine has been discovered, and was worked with poor spirit by a

company, who long since have abandoned it. Near Castlethane was another of like description. Various coloured ochres, which indicate lead and copper mines, are found in many parts of this barony: in the banks of rivulets, antimony has also been found. I have sent some specimens of these minerals to the Dublin Society, and they are to be seen in their museum.

This whole district, which extends over a great tract of country, and into Keady in the county of Armagh, abounds with lead ore. At Keady are extensive mines on the estate of the Earl of Farnham, which would well repay the adventurer, if engaged in with spirit; the ore of these mines is of the richest quality. The roads of this county, where it adjoins Armagh, are evidently better than those of that county on the frontier; but the best of them are bad indeed, when compared to the roads in the county of Louth.

The bridges are in miserable order, though they cross very narrow streams, and would require but a small expence to be kept in good repair.

A navigation is determined on, to extend from Castleblaney to Dundalk, and will soon be undertaken.

The lakes of this country abound with huge pike, and are free to all sportsmen.

There are no schools, excepting the meanest hedge schools, nor is there any charitable institution in the barony.

A considerable proportion of the lands is enjoyed by proprietors, who, from various circumstances, and professional

feffional fittuations, cannot refide at home; their abfence is feverely felt, as they are fo very numerous, and this remark will be found to apply through the greater part of the county of Monaghan. As population encreafes, fo does manufacture; they generally keep pace together, and are confpicuoufly eminent in this county. The nature of the foil being fo well calculated for the provifions raifed here, and alfo for the growth of flax, together with the abundance of fuel and water, all prove this country to be better difpofed for the linen manufacture, than for hufbandry, or any other purfuit.

In this barony there is not one bolting-mill, but feveral grift-mills, which make oatmeal for the toll.

The only plantations, that deferve that title, through this whole diftrict, are at Caſtle-Blaney demefne, until we approach Mr. Leſlie's improvements adjoining Bal-libay; nor is there a nurfery of any kind in Cremourne, or nearer than at Collon, in the county of Louth: timber is confequently very dear, and not a foot of it for fale here. Foreign timber only is ufed, and is had from Dundalk or Newry. The natural fine falls, that the moors of this country poſſeſs, are very inviting to draining, and, if attempted, would certainly ſhew ſuch good effects, as to induce the occupier to procure gravel, even from a diſtant place, that would ſoon repay his induſtry, and is fo particularly well calculated to improve this foil.

The induſtry of the people ſeems to be confined to manufacture, and little is had from the foil without perfevering labour.

The

The men all speak the English tongue, but the women seem rather inclined to the Irish language.

The church of Clontibrett stands six miles north-east of Castleblaney, on the high road to Monaghan: the spire is old, and covered with shingles; from the spiral set off to the base, is a stone tower; the spire is evidently of much later date than the base, yet very rudely finished. Here is a glebe of thirty acres, and a parsonage, near to which are the cross roads, which branch to Ballibay and Keady. The clergy of the barony are resident, and are attended by numerous congregations.

All commodities but liquids are sold by weight, except oatmeal and salt, which are retailed by measure.

The mountain of Crieve, which I have particularly spoken of, is in this barony, and within one mile of which is the town of Ballibay, which of late years, since the establishment of its linen market, is greatly improved, and several new houses are building, two stories high, and slated. There is also a market-house, and the weekly market is held on Saturdays. The amount of webs purchased here may be about 1,500*l.* per week.

Before these new houses were erected, this town must have had a very miserable appearance, as all the old houses are falling to pieces, and threaten destruction to passengers. In the neighbourhood of this town are the extensive bleach-greens and mills of Crieve, which will be again mentioned, when I come to speak more minutely of the linen manufacture. The road through
this

this town is in wretched order. Great bogs are interspersed on this line, and fuel is so cheap, as to be delivered in Ballibay for $6\frac{1}{2}d.$ the horse-load. A tract of bog is already cut out, for the supply of the bleach-mills; it lies very high, and ranges in a long flat level, comprising two estates. It has been advanced, that, from these circumstances, it cannot be reclaimed. Would not an act of parliament be worthy of consideration, which should oblige the owners of estates to permit covered sewers to be made through their grounds, to drain the lands above them, on their being reimbursed the damage?

The bridges, on the line of road from hence to Monaghan, are in desperate order; two of them are completely down. Some barley is sowed in this district. The road here is a very long continuation of steep hills, but a new line is laid out, which will remedy this great mistake, which is so conspicuous through all the old roads in the county. The soil is of various qualities, and seems whimsically disposed; as, in its natural state, at the angle of junction of many fields, it is found quite different, being deep and argillaceous at one point; a shallow gravelly grit at another; a third shews itself a stiff brick clay; and a fourth a party-coloured mixture of a red and green clayey gravel. Several quarries of decayed freestone, and banks of brown soft flags, are also very frequently seen, and a blueish gravel, but not possessing any lime, or at all calcareous. All this variety of soil is favoured with the manure of lime, but the
green

green grit is the most ungrateful. Nearly midway is the seat of Mr. Ousley, where is good feeding-ground, a large lake, and some timber trees, but this is without the barony; the hedge-rows, however, are in the same wretched order.

The demesne, which adjoins the town of Ballibay, is the estate of Charles Albert Leslie, Esq., which he has highly improved with plantations; about thirty acres are in one plot, overhanging the lake. The road from hence towards Carrickmacross is very bad, and a new road is made, for two miles from Ballibay, which is in no better repair. The soil of the country in this district is gritty, with much red ochre, and great indications of copper and iron. No limestone is found nearer than Carrickmacross, which is twelve miles distant, and is sometimes carried from thence; so a valuable return is made from its manure in those lands. For some distance from Ballibay, in this line, the country at either side is happily situate for ornamental improvement, having picturesque streams, and beautiful glens, and some partial spots of meadow interspersed in their banks, which have a rich verdure; but those spots are but partial, as, for a considerable distance, the greater part has but a shallow soil, covering a flaggy rotten quarry, not six inches from the surface. Pursuing this route, a long extensive tract is very wild and hilly. The lands near to Ballibay will not average more than 15s. per acre, for eight miles together, beyond the barony; it then encreases to eighteen, and

and from thence to Carrickmacross becomes such fine ground, as to equal from 30s. to 40s.

Ballibay stands in the heart of a manufacturing country; it is five miles distant from Castleblaney, and seven and a half from Monaghan, and is on the estate of Mr. Leslie.

This barony contains three entire parishes; that of Clontibrett, in which is the town and demesne of Castleblaney, and seven lesser lakes, besides the great lakes of Mucknoe, which highly ornament the improvements; Corraghdorgan and Toam are the largest. This very extensive parish abounds with bog, and the Fews mountains join on the northern borders. The neat demesne of Braca is in this parish.

The parish of Mucknoe has but one lake at Lurganmore, which falls into those of Castle-Blaney. The tracts of bog are extensive. The demesne of Blaney Lodge is in this parish.

In Agnamullen parish is the great lake of Eagish, which I have already spoken of very particularly; the lakes and streams on one side of Ballibay, Lough Aven, and the Lough of Chantinee, besides eight lesser lakes. The bogs are very great towards Cavan county. The bridge of Ballicoghil is within these bounds, as are the demesnes of Rochfield, Bushford, Millford, Prospect, Mountain Lodge, Chantinee, Crieve, and Sallyville, and also the poor village of Ballytreen, and the bounds extend to the lake of Shercock.

Mountain

Mountain Lodge demesne has been highly improved by Lieutenant Colonel Ker, who has made some fine plantations, and improved a great tract of bog, through which have been cut some very capital roads, at a great expence. The lands are highly cultivated, and the crops shew the fine heart, in which they have been prepared.

That part of Tullycorbet parish, which branches into this barony, has the lakes on the northern side adjoining Ballibay, and the town of Ballibay, and the mill of Ballinter. To the southward bogs are stretched very considerably.

I shall conclude the description of this barony with a few words more of Castleblaney demesne, which is far superior to the other improvements I have spoken of.

The water within these bounds is nearly as extensive as the lands, if we rate the woods as a separate division, which also spread very wide, and have some good timber. The groves near the house have the grossest trees, and the screen of plantation, which runs up along a very beautiful hill, is exceedingly handsome, and laid out with great taste and judgment. Through this screen is made a fine drive, and the prospect from the summit, over the great extent of wood and water, comprising the elegant small demesne of Blaney Lodge, is highly engaging, and takes in the richest scenery. The pasturage of this demesne is very nice, and, with a trifling expence

pence of draining and surface dressing, would be rendered valuable land. The undulation of the ground is as favourable to improvement as could be wished for.

A very excellent house has lately been built, contiguous to the site of the old mansion, but the situation is certainly far from being the best in the demesne, and is quite too near the town. At the other extremity of the lake, near which the dog-kennel stands, is a charming situation, and an approach to this might have been made, which could not be surpassed in the beautiful scenery within its view.

Part of the walls of the old castle yet stand; the effect of the ruin is quite lost to the mansion, as being so close; and, from the spot I have just mentioned, they have all that venerable and engaging appearance, which render those antiquities so interesting in ornamental grounds.

There are also the ruins of a low building in the wood, on the lake, which have a curious and whimsical appearance; it seems to be very ancient, but I could not learn for what purpose it was erected; it bears no resemblance to a religious building, and the walls are very strong, but entirely obscured by the plantations that overtop it.

To the left of the castle, beyond the lake, is a very close plantation, which covers a beautiful and extensive hill. The trees are tolerably full grown, and on
gala

gala days a splendid flag waves over these improvements, and conveys an idea of magnificence, along with the natural beauties, which this fine demesne is truly conspicuous for.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER VIII.

BARONY OF DARTREY.

SECTION I.

Agriculture.

THE soil of this barony is of two kinds of very opposite quality, and may be divided into two districts, the first containing the parishes of Aghabog, Ematris, and Cairan; the other those of Clones, and Killevan, which soil is considerably better for tillage, and is particularly occupied in that branch of husbandry, which might be successfully cultivated here, but the farmers are fonder of raising barley, and bere; and here, although manufacture is considerably engaged in, yet we find, that farming is followed on a larger scale, and several farms contain no less than from fifty to sixty acres of excellent land, in the parish of Clones; and there is also some very nice sheep-walk in this district, though but little of it is so applied; perhaps the whole barony does not rear three hundred lambs.

Of

Of the first and by far the most extensive division, the soil is of one quality, being a rich but shallow loam, on a very deep and stiff clay, highly improveable by graveling, but in its present state spongy, wet, and over-run with rushes. Until the soil is made friable by incorporating with it gravel and lime, it will be found very difficult and expensive, if not impracticable, to attempt to drain it with effect, as every hole, and even impression made by the feet of cattle, will retain the water, which falls in rain, or is pressed out of the spongy loam on the surface: the ground being so heavy, stiff, close, and staunch, in its nature, that when drains have been made, on their very edges will these pools remain until the atmosphere again imbibes them. Notwithstanding this discouraging appearance of soil for tillage, it is yet extremely rich in pasture, and I know not any country I have seen, that is more favourable to dairy, or the fattening of light cattle; it also produces most abundant meadow, and will very quickly fatten sheep; but to leave them on this land, after they throw up flesh, would be very prejudicial, for they soon rot; this consequently bars the breeding of sheep, which is not attempted here, very few indeed are even fatted, and that only by the gentry in favourite paddocks.

Here, they sow some little wheat, but in a very small proportion. Potatoes are always the first and second crop, and have an abundant produce, followed by flax, barley and oats, of which they take three or four successive crops; the grain is generally a mixture of black
and

and white; but it is to be observed, that, if you sow the very best white oats, you will certainly reap a black grain, after being two or three years naturalized to the soil; to prevent this, the seed should be repeatedly changed; but they do not esteem the black grain as much inferior to the white, either for cattle or for meal, but the white oats have certainly a greater produce, and, the same quantity of each grain in weight, the white oats will produce more meal than the black; the latter are the natural oats of the country.

They plough most generally with three horses abreast, and sometimes with two only, and, as all this latter district is divided into farms of three to five acres, the tillage will be found proportioned to the pasturage, as three to one; in this calculation, bog or mountain is not taken into account, and of the former the share is very considerable. All this district is engaged in manufacture, on which they entirely depend, and they have scarcely any more land, than provides them with meal, potatoes, and flax; milk is very scarce, although the soil is so favourable to dairy, and of water and fuel there is no lackage; in fact, they have every requisite for the effectual supply of a great manufacturing country. A farm of five acres may have two acres of pasture and meadow.

Half an acre of flax.

Half an acre of potatoes.

Two acres of oats, or more generally two and an half, and no meadow. Hay is bought at a high rate,
always

always rushy; the bottoms give a kind of coarse grass, which the few, who have a horse or cow, resort to for their hay, but oats and straw are more generally depended on. The spade here comes rather tapering, and very narrow at the end of the blade, which is much curved in the middle, to prevent the adhesion of the soil, that is always heavy and clogged.

Cootchill, which is situated in the county of Cavan, and on the borders of this barony, is their market, but no grain is sold there; the particular description of this town will be found in the Reports of the county of Cavan, but it must be remarked, that the great linen market, which is held there, is more particularly supplied from the county of Monaghan. Of green food there is none cultivated, nor have they a necessity for it.

RAPE.

This crop is particularly nutritious for sheep, and always the land must be pared and burnt, in its preparation for the seed. This county abounds with land very fit for rape, either as a transplanted vegetable, for green food, or to sow for the seed; the latter gives a great return to the careful husbandman, and well repays his toil. There can be no cheaper crop, or better mode of bringing in moory ground, than commencing with rape; after the land is burnt and well drained, the crop will commonly yield in produce equal to twenty pounds per

per acre, and the rape cake, as a manure, is very powerful, and will hold a long time in the ground; this offal is sent from hence to England, and sold there for manure; how much more valuable then must it be at home, and can there be a stronger proof of its value, or a better reason why we should encourage the use of it? This valuable crop, taken in every sense, ought to occupy much of our attention, as there is not more lucrative husbandry, nor is there a line of business more profitable or less expensive, than the manufacture of the seed into oil.

SECT. 2. *Pasture.*

Is very rich and close, the grass heavy and very sappy, but no attempt has been made to improve the breed of cattle; beef cows are usually fed to three and an half cwt. and bullocks to four and an half or seldom five; prices are regulated by the Meath fairs; extensive graziers, there are none, but the gentry stall feed, some with hay only, and litter with turf mould; they house their milch cattle from December to May; no artificial grasses have ever been introduced here; the hay is always tramped in the field, and left to remain there a long time; it also gets considerably too much of the weather, and after being perfectly saved, will often be broken out again in sunny weather, till much of the sap is bleached out of it, and a great deal of its nutriment

exhausted. They never manure their meadows, that lie low, but leave them to be overflowed; of wool or tallow they have no trade; nor is there a tan yard in the barony; the grafs lands are here but in a bad state, for want of draining, and are so materially injured by cattle, in wet weather, that it is said every beaft has five mouths, as they calculate each leg to destroy as much grafs by poaching, as would be consumed by so many mouths in drier lands.

ARTIFICIAL GRASSES.

It has lately been ascertained, that to lay down land with clover and trefoil, and feed it off with sheep for two successive years, will destroy all weeds; cutting them twice the same year, before feeding, will also certainly banish them; on fresh land, if this mode is attended to, there is no doubt of its success. Rye grafs and clover, if sowed together, yield a fine herbage early in spring, and at that time have more nutriment for black cattle, than the natural grafs of the country, and it has been known at that season to fat oxen to great weight and perfection. Nor are these grasses less beneficial for sheep, and at yearning time they furnish a very nice pasture.

In parts of England they feed hogs with clover, which only require a little corn, after being fattened, to give their flesh a delicate flavour, as it has already acquired great firmness from this valuable grafs.

SECT.

SECT. 3. *Farms.*

I have stated the general size of farms in the larger district, to average five acres, and to amount sometimes to sixty acres in the richer lands. The houses have a warm and better appearance than I have seen, and much more civilization is met here: Richard Dawson, Esq. who is one of this county's representatives in parliament, has lately built several exceedingly neat and ornamental farm houses, contiguous to Dawson-grove, and they possess as much comfort and convenience within, as should be expected from the exterior view. They are all built of brick, two stories high, and enliven this district, which is adorned with them. The tenants are obliged to keep them in very neat repair, and to preserve the plantations, which surround each of them; they cost about sixty pounds each; all the houses in this country are built of brick, which clay this soil abounds with; nor is there any quarry, but at a great distance. Leases, here, are generally set for twenty one years, or for one life only, and those even of late years, on Lord Viscount Cremorne's estate, are set full ten shillings per acre under their value. The wise and humane policy of allowing the tenant an interest in his farm, is here very conspicuous, and from the protecting clause in the lease of non alienation, they are tied up from abusing the kindness of their landlord; they pay all taxes. One

horse to eight acres of tillage, may be the proportion of the country, but a great part of the labour is performed with the spade: here there is a much better appearance of thorn and hedge rows, which are very well dressed, and trimmed, on the lands of the gentry. Lime is the universal and all-powerful manure for this soil, but no limestone found, except near Clones, but at a great depth, and not in any quantity, so as to repay the trouble and cost of raising it. On the extremities of this county only, at Clones, and Carrickmacross, is limestone had, of a rich and highly calcareous quality, and taking the average of the entire lands, it will be found at no less distance than eight miles. Draining has never been attempted, but in shallow cuts; but surface drains will have but little effect, and the soil must be opened with gravel, or lime, before any permanent food can be reaped from this pursuit.

In Clones parish, the farms are sub-divided into smaller divisions, and set out by middle men, at an exorbitant rent, as all the leases, which are on the Dacre estate, being the principal one of this barony, are nearly expired; the original tenants are endeavouring to re-possess them, for the sake of tenant right, that they may be found in possession when the leases shall be terminated. For this reason, these lands are mostly in pasture, but I apprehend they would make an excellent return in tillage. Red clover is natural to this soil, but is choaked with rushes, which are abundant, and no pains are taken to destroy or check their growth.

Fields

Fields are here from two to three acres, and the houses very warm and comfortable. In some leases are the particular clauses found, of not breaking meadow land, but this is not attended to, nor the penalty sought for; another frivolous clause is introduced in some of them, and borrowed from the English modes, of prohibiting the tenant to plant more than a certain proportion of potatoe land; the two late years must certainly shew the absurdity of these wanton clauses of domineering and arbitrary tendency. The penalties for alienation are rigidly enforced on Lord Cremorne's estate; this is wise and fair, as the proprietor, who sets his land, one third less than the value, has surely the best right to choose his tenantry, when he sacrifices so much for their comfort and happiness. How far these clauses are legal, it seems yet undetermined in this county; where farms are so small, the object is, doubtless, the making of freeholders; and this consideration is opposed by the manner of setting farms at a rent far above their value, on the terms of supposed breach of covenants, and on the condition, that, if the tenants shall observe certain clauses, then only such a rent, as is understood to be the fair value of the land, shall be demanded. This would certainly not leave the tenant free to swear, that he has an interest of forty shillings annually, in so small a farm, when he is bound to pay five pounds per acre rent in the yielding clause, and which is only reducible, on condition of his refraining from the breach of covenants. It would be advisable for the landlord to con-

sider

sider, how far the tenant's right to a freehold would be barred, if his yielding clause is so many times greater than the value; and in all the customs and laws between landlord and tenant, what a scene of litigation might ensue, if this mode of lease, which I have heard proposed, should be adopted?

CABBAGES.

Cabbages could be easily raised in this soil, and would be excellent food for milch cows; they should be planted in June, in rows, three feet asunder, and two feet from each plant; they might by this means be horse-hoed, which should be done twice, and hand-hoed once at least, in rows; they would fill to fifteen or sixteen pounds each plant, being allowed a sprinkling of dung; the soil should be very well tilled, getting frequent ploughings, and ought to be previously pared and burnt. By giving the hearts only of cabbages to cows, and pulling off the loose leaves, the milk will not have the least rankness, and will be considerably increased.

SECT. 4. *General Subjects.*

THIS barony has its share of the great population of the county, and amongst the lower orders the proportion may be twenty weavers to one labourer, and this still

still encreasing, as every labourer will have his children taught to weave. It is to be observed, that a great trade is carried on by a description of weavers, who are wealthy enough to employ journeymen; such a weaver is called a manufacturer; he generally endeavours to have from ten to fifteen acres, that he may let out as many cottages as he is able to supply work for the weavers, who inhabit them; in his own house are also as many looms, as it will conveniently hold, for his children and journeymen to work at; he can give up but little of his own time to the loom, as he has enough to do to provide the materials and dispose of his webs; besides, he has his farm to look to; this man will oftentimes average three shillings per day on each of his workmen, and he soon becomes wealthy. The journeyman will weave five yards of narrow cloth daily, for which his employer will pay him five pence per yard; on this hire, he can earn, in usual good times, a handsome support for himself. It is to be observed, that the journeyman working in the manufacturer's house is generally unmarried, and pays his employer for his board; it is the married man who looks for the cot-take, and works at his loom at home.

The trade is fully acquired in three years, which is the usual time that the apprentice is bound, and he receives from his master one guinea, at the expiration of his second year, and two, with a shirt, at the expiration of the third; in this last year, he is so expert, that he becomes highly valuable to his employer.

Drum

Drum is a very inconsiderable village, but Clones is an excellent town, and very thriving in its trade; the market is held on Thursdays, and it is well resorted to by the linen buyers; it is supposed that seven hundred pounds worth of webs are purchased here every week.

Houses concerned largely in the linen trade have people employed, called commissioners, who buy for them; they have been paid six pence, per web, for their trouble, and this description of buyers will make from an hundred pounds to two hundred and fifty pounds, annually, by their commission; but merchants finding they sometimes had bought, when markets were too high, for the sake of ensuring their commission, now prefer paying them a yearly salary for their trouble. The clothing of the lower ranks is frieze, or a coarse light blue cloth, which is manufactured at home, and dyed with indigo: the women wear much more cottons than stuffs; their food potatoes, meal, vegetables, milk, butter; meal in this market has averaged twelve shillings per cwt.; potatoes two pence per stone, excluding these two scarce years; the cost of a back load of turf, that is carried in kishies across a horse's back, brought home to the town, sixpence; but it can be reared very cheap on the bog, at task work; for fifteen pence a clamp will be reared, eight feet long, four feet wide, and five feet high, pointing up angular, like the roof of an house, and this is the mode, by which the gentry pay for their fuel, having each their own bog: price of wages, ten pence in winter, and thirteen pence in summer. Ditches are

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are made for 18*l.* per perch, six feet wide, and seven deep, running measure. For any quantity of hay or flax, there is but sixpence paid to the incumbent for his tithe, which is extremely reasonable; I do not mean sixpence per acre, but for the entire quantity, be it more or less. Oats have averaged 4*s.* 6*d.* per acre, barley 6*s.*, wheat 8*s.*; but their rates are increasing. Fourpence is paid for a milch cow, but potatoes are exempted. The tithe of all this country yields but an inconsiderable revenue, though some benefices are from 200*l.* to 1000*l.* per annum; the profit principally proceeds from glebes.

Aghabog has forty acres of glebe, and a parsonage; Killivan has the same number of acres, but no parsonage; Ematrix has 150 acres, with a parsonage; and Clones has 150 acres of glebe in this county, and 400 more in the adjoining county of Fermanagh, with a parsonage. This benefice is in the gift of the Dacre family, and was a grant to one of their ancestors, by King James I., with also the abbey of Clones, at the yearly rent of 1*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.*; and, as an accommodation to the family, in their annual visit to Lough Derg pilgrimage, they were given the tithes of the parish of Aghavea, which they collected in their journey. This parish is situated in the county of Fermanagh, and is midway between Clones and Lough Derg. In Clones are great abbey lands, some part of which are tithe free; others only pay the thirteenth stoke; it depends principally on its glebes, which are considerable, and yield above 400*l.* per annum. At Clones is a corn-mill. Formerly
there

there were three nurseries for sale in this county, but all are now in waste and neglect. Timber is purchased by the tree, and there is no stated price, but according to agreement. In this barony there is no mountain. The industry of the people is very conspicuous here; the women and children are all employed. The English language is almost always spoken. The average produce of black oats will be twenty barrels of fourteen stone each from the acre, but the barrel here has twenty-eight stone. The white oats will not produce by a tenth as much, and they sow twenty-eight stone of black, and twenty-five of white to the acre: for the latter, the ground must be in good order, and well trenched. The average return of the county, taking good and bad ground together, will be found to be six barrels per acre less than this rate. Potatoes yield forty barrels of forty-six stone each, with manure; but, if a second crop is sowed, without any manure, the produce will be still greater. Flax averages 18*l.* per acre; they generally sow between the 20th of April and 6th of May. Potatoe land five to seven guineas per acre; flax, 4*l.* to 5*l.* The man, who has a cot-take, will get as much potatoe ground free, for the dung, ashes, and manure scraped about his cabin, as he can cover: if he has a wet cot-take, and has a cow, he will get his pasture-ground and his flax-ground free, for the cow's dung.

Much marle is found very deep in the bogs, but never used as a manure.

The

The town of Clones is on the estate of the Right Honorable Lady Dacre. The market-place is of triangular form, and here is an indifferent market-house. In the centre of the square are two pumps, lately sunk, for the supply of the inhabitants. At the upper end of the market-place, and on the ascent of the hill, stands the church, which has a neat steeple, and contiguous to it is the parsonage. The houses in this town are tolerably good, but mostly thatched. Here is an old market-cross, erected on a flight of steps of very antique appearance, and the ornamental stones on the top of the pillar, which is about ten feet high, and eighteen inches diameter, are very curious. On these steps the yarn market is held. On the last Thursday in every month in the year, a fair is held. The average prices of small dry cattle, which are always to be had here, will be found to be from three to four guineas per head; these will only fat to three cwt. A Seneschal's court is held here regularly, and the borough formerly returned two members to parliament. One range of houses are nearly all slated, as also are all the new houses, and the market-house. The roads about this town are in general in good repair; from hence to Monaghan, the road is level, and very good, and the face of the country on this line is rich and very populous. The ashes of the red bog, when mixed with lime, is here found the most powerful manure. The soil around this town is of an excellent limestone quality, and they have a very fine turbary. The average value of land, as set in this district,

trict, is 25s. to 30s. per acre: the town-parks about Clones do not rate much higher than 50s., though they are well worth double that sum.

On the entrance to Clones from Cootehill, the road divides the venerable religious buildings, for which this ancient town was celebrated. To the right hand stand the ruins of the old monastery, or abbey, for Augustine canons, founded by Saint Tigernac, the bishop, early in the sixth century. The abbey was dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. St. Tigernac was the third bishop, who enjoyed the see of Clogher; St. Macartin only having presided there, between him and St. Patrick, whom Joceline states to have been the original founder, and to have built the church of Clogher, even before that of Armagh was erected. St. Tigernac, according to Ware, was called legate of Ireland, to whom St. Macartin, as far as in him lay, bequeathed the bishopric, together with his blessing. He fixed his seat at Cluaine, from whence, in the Irish annals, he is called Cluanois, for this town originally was named Cluanois, then Clunes, Clownish, Clunish, and last Clones. The church here was one of the four principal churches of the diocese; wherein, as also in the church of Derry-moailain, the memory of St. Tigernac is famous. He died the fifth of April, 550, or 549, on which day, in the martyrology of Molan, his death is thus noted. "In Scotland, (*i. e.* the greater, or Ireland) the birthday of St. Tigernac, bishop and confessor. He founded a monastery of Augustine canons at Cluanois. There is

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is extant, in the library of St. Bennett's College, Cambridge, his office to a hymn, which begins thus :

Adest dies celebris, Sancto Tigernaci ;
Celebrate this holy-day ; 'tis the feast of St. Tigernac.

He was buried in the church of Cluanois."

The walls of a small chapel yet remain, and are built of square cut freestone outside, and of limestone within; the freestone seems to have been set without mortar, as, between every square, there appears to be no cement. It is said that moss was the bedding for this mode of architecture, but we know that, before the sixth century, the use of lime mortar was known in this country ; and the round tower, which was certainly of more ancient date, that stands contiguous, is built of the best materials, which completely contradicts the assertion I have heard, that this building was erected after the oldest fashion, without mortar: the stones, which are so extremely correctly squared, would be sufficient to contradict it, as stone-cutting was certainly invented subsequent to the use of mortar, and we never heard of that original mode of building having exceeded one story in height, nor is it reasonable to suppose, that without the cement of mortar, they could be raised so high to stand for ages. The interior lining of these walls was evidently of mortar, as is plainly seen. The entrance is after the Gothic order, and burial-ground is around the walls. This yard is enclosed by a very strong four-foot

foot wall, and Lady Dacre has erected a pair of iron gates, and appointed a steward to keep the key, that the right of the ground, &c. should not be lost to the family. The gable of the old chapel, which is the entrance, is faced with the dressed stone to the top, but the side walls are only fronted with it four or five feet high. At the opposite side is another extensive burial-yard, both which evidently were united, before the road intersected them; it is also enclosed with a wall of the like dimensions, and with iron gates, the same as the other: they are both planted around the bounds with young trees.

The head-stones in this yard have a curious appearance, being cut out in most whimsical shapes, with rude and very antique carvings; some sculptured with canons, or with flowers; more of these are ornamented with what seems to have been intended to represent a thistle. Perhaps these tombs contain the ashes of some of the ancient Scotch colony, which possessed this district, and their tombstones were ornamented with that plant, which in heraldry is given to distinguish their nation. Within this inclosure, stands one of these famous round towers, which are seen in several parts of Ireland.* The Hiberno-Celtic name of these slender edifices was *Cloghadh*, or *Clog*; the word is derived from the old Irish, *Tlachgo*, from *Tlacht*, the earth, or universe.

* General Vallancey's opinion, as in *Collectanea de Rebus Hibernicis*,

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universe. The Druidic temples of Vesta, in which was kept the sacred or eternal fire, were called Tlachgo, or temples of Cybele, being of the same construction with the Pyrathea of the ancient Persians, and the Chammia of the Phenicians and Carthaginians, some of which are still remaining in Persia and Bulgaria. The Hibernian druids erected these temples in their sanctuaries, as is evident from the ruins of several still remaining in different parts of the kingdom, particularly at Ballynasliebh in the county of Kilkenny, Navan, near Armagh, &c. They were constructed of rock stone, without cement, and were of the same diameter with those towers now remaining; but to what altitude they were carried is not certain, little more than the foundations being now visible. After the establishment of Christianity in Ireland, among a number of druidic superstitions, the sacred or eternal fires were preserved for several centuries, and the Tlachgo by the Christian clergy removed from the sanctuaries of Paganism, to those of the true faith, and became appurtenances to churches and monasteries, though still retaining their ancient denominations of Tlachgo, or temples of Vesta. On the abolition of these fires, about the twelfth century, and the introduction of bells, the Tlachgo were in general converted into belfries; whence the modern name for a bell in Irish, is Clogh, from being placed in the Tlachgo, or vestal temples. As these round towers are neither found in Britain, nor in the European continent, they were most probably introduced into this island by the

the Persian Magi, or Gâurs, who, in the time of Constantine the Great, ran over the world, carrying in their hands censers, containing the holy fire, asserting, that their god should destroy all other gods, which in some measure they effected, by lighting fires under them, thereby burning those of wood, and melting those of metal. In this period, the Christian religion had made considerable progress in the southern and western parts of Europe; but in Ireland, superstition remaining in its original state, whose tenets were not widely different from those of the Gâurs, these Pagan philosophers found a ready assent to their doctrine; whence Pyratheias, or vestal towers, became universal throughout the island, in the place of the ancient Tlachgo, which were mounts of stone, containing the remains of their ancient heroes, and on which fires were occasionally lighted from the sacred vaults, at the times of sacrifice. The Cloghadh, now remaining in Ireland, have been said to have been erected by the Christian * clergy, and that none of them
are

* Other antiquarians have advanced, that these towers were originally erected previous to Christianity, nor has the dispute been determined with certainty, being only regulated by various opinions: but, in questioning this position, it only serves to shew their greater antiquity, without denying their original use to have been as stated above, which there is no proof for, though very reconcileable to reason, but does not entirely agree with the old description we have of such fine towers having been square, and these are circular. In the wild state of this country, when Christianity was introduced, and churches built, it is reasonable to suppose, they should choose the site near to a religious edifice, for which use towers are supposed to have been erected: or, be their original purport what

are older, probably, than the beginning of the seventh century, nor none of a later date than the close of the eleventh, though evidently derived from structures of a similar nature, used by the Pagan priests. They were, however, continued as belfries to the close of the fourteenth century, for which reason, a belfry, in the Irish language, is Cloghadh, from being originally temples of Tlacht.

The following are the dimensions of the Tower at Clones.

The walls are four feet thick, very rough without-side, and within are all fine limestone; diameter in the clear, ten feet. In this tower there were evidently five stories, which I never observed any vestige of in any other I have seen, but were all perfectly smooth to the top within-side, and no holes for cross planks to support a floor. If a stair-case was in this tower, it must have been of wood, as there is no appearance of there having been a stone one. At the distance of ten feet from the ground, within-side, is the entrance, twenty-four inches wide; the rubbish around the walls without have reduced this nearly one-half; at opposite and equal distances,

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to

what it might, it was desirable to erect the church contiguous to a place, which must have been rendered noted by such a remarkable building; and, from its summit, there was a good look out for the refugees, who sheltered in the vicinity of churches, in those disturbed times. The situation of these towers, being so often found in valleys, militates against their having been intended or constructed for watch towers.

to each story, are evidently the holes where a cross joist was introduced, to support the floor; and at the summit, the walls were reduced in thickness to two feet, and had large embrasures, now falling to ruin. These joist holes might have been picked out, in later days; but they are not square, nor with that neatness, which would appear, if they were originally formed when the tower was erecting; neither have the embrasures at the summit the appearance of original formation, but seem to have been broken out after the building was finished; and from the centre of the tower is an aperture, which favours this assertion, and from its slit a very long crack has taken place, which is quite through the wall.

Contiguous to this tower is a great tomb, or stone coffin, which has remained always over ground, but firmly fixed with earth and stones around it, and belongs to the M'Mahon family. The stone, of which it is composed, is a very strong rock, and there is no other coffin around any corpse, which is interred in it. The coverlid is very heavy, and shaped angular like the roof of an house, with two small pillars rising from the ends; on each side of this cover, is a very antique inscription, but the characters are almost entirely defaced.

Near to this venerable ground is the great fort, which is all an artificial mound of earth, which was raised for the protection of the town; this fort is very steep and difficult of access, and commands the town and country around for a great extent. This artificial mound was made

made on the summit of a hill, which naturally favoured its position, and is far above the level ground; within this area, and around its base, is a deep fosse cut out, that has always the finest water, even in the driest seasons; this must be supplied from springs, and there is no way else for its conveyance. So great a fosse must also have afforded a considerable defence to its garrison, as well as convenience: at the summit it has a double parapet, of a circular form, the one elevated ten feet above the other; without the fosse is another parapet, which is still considerably higher than the level of the adjoining ground, to which its glacis has a formidable slope; the whole of the works are enclosed in a square, and cover, in area, about an Irish acre. Contiguous to it, and facing its salient angle, next the town, is a lesser fort, which is well defended by the church steeple, and flanks the principal parts of the works. The soil around these forts is of the richest kind, but the young trees, which have been planted on the lesser fort, have not succeeded; I suppose they were too forward when transplanted. I could not learn the date of these remarkable mounds, nor any tradition relating to them.

In this barony are numerous Danish forts, generally erected on a rising spot, in a morass: and in turf cutting have frequently been found the wicker hurdles, which they carried; to make a pass through the bogs, when they went out to forage or marauded through the country, and, according as they retreated home, took

up; thus answering the like purpose as a draw-bridge to a fortified place. At Freamount, the seat of William Mayne, Esq. several of these hurdles were found near to one of the remarkable raths, which is the largest I have seen, and most capably defended with well constructed works; its area is about an Irish acre, and commands a number of toghers or strong bog-passes. Not far from this great rath, are two lesser ones, which flank it, and were garrisoned always, to prevent the grand fort being surprised. The quagmires, that surround these raths, were impassable without these wicker hurdles, which were used by besiegers in their attacks, as well as by the garrison, when they sallied out for plunder. Mr. Mayne has planted the great rath, and it has a very pretty effect; this neat demesne has been drained and farmed at great expence, but no gravel is near it, without which being first well incorporated into the soil, it never can be thoroughly drained. Drumswords is a very inconsiderable village, in this barony, nor is Scots-house less mean in appearance; they both lie S. E. of Clones, and about five miles distant from that town. Newbliss is a neat village, the estate of Mr. Ker, whose fine demesne and plantations are immediately adjoining, and it lies four miles south of Clones.

Rockcorry is a thriving little town, and has a weekly yarn market, which is spiritedly attended to; the demesne in the vicinity is the property of Mr. Corry, a minor, who is the proprietor of the village, with all the adjacent

adjacent lands, and also enjoys the fine estate at Baillieborough, in the county of Cavan, which will be spoken of in the reports of that county. The demesne of Rockcorry is managed with great care and credit, and the extensive plantations are in the finest vigour. In the village is a brewery, and a great appearance of industry and comfort.

The demesne of Hilton, the property of Samuel Madden, Esq. bounds this county and Fermanagh, and is exceedingly beautiful, having in its environs the fine view of the mountains, and abundance of water, with very rich plantations in the interior, which ornament the scene, highly furnished with elegant improvements, and laid out with great taste.

That part of the parish of Clones, which is in this barony, has thirty-two lakes; Lough Oona, Lough Camm, and Lough Damby, and the lake near to Smithborough, are the most considerable: towards the centre, the tracts of bog are most extensive. It also contains the bridge and bolting mills of Annalore, where a beautiful river flows, and winds through the fertile demesne of William Foster, Esq. which is wooded with fine and beautiful timber; it hath also the glebe of Altartate, the town of Clones, the corn mill of Grelabuy, and the demesne of Monilly.

The parish of Killevan has eleven lakes, four of which are tolerably large, and the bog seems impartially and sufficiently scattered, throughout. It has the neat
village

village and demesne of Newbliss, Cumber Bridge, and the demesnes of Ballinure and Killicumbent.

Curran parish has thirteen lakes; those contiguous to Drum village, and Hilton Demesne, are the most extensive; it contains the villages of Scots-house and Drum; the bog lies principally to the centre, and here are the small demesnes of Lauret Hill, Kellyfargy, and Sandhills.

The parish of Aghabog has five lakes; that near Leyfborough demesne is larger than all the rest in the barony, excepting the great lakes of Dawson Grove; Leyfborough is the only demesne in this parish, and here is Johnston's Bridge. The tracts of bog to the east and west cover a great deal of ground, and to the northward are also some very large patches.

Ematris parish has the great lakes of Dawson Grove, which divide this demesne from Ballamont forest, and are also the bounds of this county and Cavan; in this parish is the town and demesne of Rockcorry, and the demesnes of Freamount and Maghernahilly, and it adjoins the town of Cootehill.

The demesne of Dawson Grove, which is in this barony, and by far the most magnificent in the county, deserves particular attention.

The extensive lakes, which adorn this beautiful demesne, cover an immense tract, and after branching with all the captivating irregularity and wildness of nature, through islands delightfully wooded, wind off in a grand and spacious river, whose banks are highly dressed,
with

with ornamental plantations of the richest foliage, and bound the demesne. How infinitely short of these natural beauties will artificial improvements appear, though arranged with the purest taste; and the great undulation of the surface of these islands, which are clothed with the noblest timber, present to the view the appearance of immense forests, and from this extensive and unbounded range create an effect astonishingly sublime.

Along the grand sheet of water, which skirts the back lawn, is the greatest variety of scenes, the most picturesque; and the vistas, which are formed by the romantic disposition of the islands, shew a succession of views with all the splendor of rural charms: one of these vistas, particularly interesting, catches the eye in the new approach from Cootehill, and as we come near this charming island, which affords so captivating a view, the ivy and eglantine, twining from the majestic oak, which is reflected from the clear mirror washing its roots, form festoons of the richest foliage, and, in the contrast of their colours, present the happiest diversity.

Such are the prominent features of this charming spot, nor are there wanting interior artificial objects of true magnificence to adorn such splendid natural beauties.

The view of the fine mausoleum, which peeps through the adjacent wood, has all that venerable and grand effect, which it was designed to convey, and creates a melancholy satisfaction in contemplating the virtues of that admirable character, to whose memory it is sacred;

nor

nor shall the excellent qualifications and genuine worth of lady Jane Dawson be forgotten, when the fine sculpture, and elegant inscription of her monument, shall have bowed to the dilapidation of time, and crumbled in the dust.

The mansion possesses all the interior convenience of an excellent and commodious family house, but its exterior, which is by no means void of elegance, yet has too little magnificence for this splendid demesne.

The soil here is a very shallow loam, covering an obstinate and stiff clay, which is only reclaimable by immense quantities of lime, or gravel, both of which revigorating manures are very distant, but the grass is naturally luxuriant, and the verdure of the lawns shews what the soil is equal to produce, though, with a labour and expence, which I fear, no farming would repay.

The new lodges, that so highly ornament the approaches, seem to rest on pillars of cut stone, which are regularly placed under the roof, at the angles of the square, and shew the correct and elegant taste of the architect, who planned them.

The magnificent demesne of Bellamont forest, which well deserves that distinguishing pre-eminence, forms the opposite shore of these charming lakes, and is viewed in all its fine variety of scenery from Dawson Grove; perhaps there are no where to be seen two such grand demesnes, whose great and natural beauties so highly contribute to the reciprocal adorning of their
splendid

splendid and sublime scenery, and which to the eye of a stranger seem but one unlimited and specious demesne. The fine plantations of great extent, and the luxuriant screens, which are continually adding to these improvements, shew a display of genuine taste, and the elegant order, in which this whole demesne is preserved, makes Dawson Grove rank high in the first rate class of natural beauties, or artificial improvements, which this favoured land can boast of. On the demesne of Dawson Grove, is a school, which was endowed by the late Lady Jane Dawson, and forty pounds annually is allowed for cloathing and educating twelve children of all religious persuasions.

I must not omit mentioning, that in this barony are some excellent slate quarries, on the estate of Doctor Plunket of the city of Dublin. I have sent a sample of the slate to the Dublin Society House, and it is no small proof of our inertness to improve the wealth, which is buried in our soil, that in this neighbourhood slates are sent for to very distant places, and purchased at considerable expence, when they might be had at home on easy terms, if this valuable quarry was properly worked, which it only requires to return a considerable profit.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER IX.

BARONY OF FARNEY OR DONAMOYNE,

SECT. I.

Agriculture.

THE soil of this district will be found a rich limestone, generally scattered on the surface, and in some few places a deep clay, highly improveable by lime, gravel, marle, or any calcareous manure. Here is the more general corn crop of the country, or barley, where the soil is very nice; they fallow for wheat, but neither this crop, nor oats, are cultivated in any thing like the same proportion as malting corn, which is all manufactured at Carrickmacross. They plough with four horses, or, in hilly parts, with three abreast, and have a fine dry soil fit for tillage, which no weather will interrupt. Not one twentieth part of this barony is under feeding, though the ground is very rich, and dry, and well calculated for sheep-walks, when limed. Their course of crops commences with potatoes, of which they always take a second crop, next here, after which they

they make a winter fallow for barley, or a summer's fallow for wheat, but very few farmers have a large crop of oats; they commence again with the like succession, and manure for potatoes, only with the scrapings of every kind mixed with a compost, and with it considerable quantities of lime. They all harness with collars and hames, and long traces, and keep no oxen for labour. Carrickmacross is their market town, and they have an excellent demand and fair prices for all grain, or other produce of the farm.

This district being almost entirely in tillage, there is no green food cultivated but at Monalty, the seat of Norman Steele, Esq.; this gentleman has practised, with success, feeding with linseed cake, which the cattle eat very greedily, and it soon fattens them; the cost of the cake is ten pounds per ton, and a very small portion of hay is required with but a little of this food: the greatest quantity of the richest manure is thus produced, and the cattle fat in half the time they would on any other known diet.

CARROTS.

No root is more nutritious than carrots, and all cattle are extremely fond of them; with hogs they agree particularly, and will fat them as quickly as any food, and their flesh has an excellent flavour, and is very firm. The light loams here would be very favourable to this branch of husbandry. They should be sowed about the
beginning

ning of April, and always hoed once or twice, to the distance of about four inches asunder; they grow to the size of six or seven inches in girth, and double that in length. The soil requires to be very loose, and well tilled, with a little manure; hogs could not get cheaper food, and, if put on very lean, they will be fat in less than a month. By hoeing them, the plants are cut away to the required distance, and they must be carefully and duly weeded.

Horses will also work on them, as well as on corn, and look uncommonly well; the great advantage in this root is, that it cannot fail by the fly, which is so injurious to turnips, nor will it rot, which so often destroys the best crops of cabbage.

SECT. 2. *Pasture.*

Is luxuriant in herbage, and very sound, but, in a dry season, is not so profitable as tillage, consequently, but little engaged in. They do not breed even a sufficiency of cattle at home for the small proportion of lands under grass, but purchase in the county of Louth, which adjoins them, and also in Connaught fairs. Monalty is the only place in the barony where they stall feed. Milch cows only are housed, although their pastures have but very poor shelter. Clover naturally is produced after limeing, and the grass is rich, and very sweet, but only heavy in wet seasons. Latterly some rye-grass and trefoil

soil have been sown, and agree very well with this soil. Though but little of their ground is under dairy, yet every farmer, who has a cow or two, will contrive to save a small tub of butter, which is purchased in Carrickmacross on commission, and sent from thence to Newry for the provision trade.

They have no wool for sale, but purchase as much as supplies their own wear, having amongst themselves a considerable woollen manufacture, equal to their consumption, but never dispose of any of it. One or two of each family are generally woollen or linen weavers; of the latter is the majority. At Carrickmacross there is a demand for all hides and tallow brought to market, where they are extensively manufactured.

SAINFOIN.

This excellent grass yields a fine pasture, and gives good crops of hay: the first year it is always grazed, and is sowed with four bushels and a half to the acre. It may be sown in with corn crops, and will last for ten or twelve years in great vigour. It roots very deep, piercing often from ten to twenty feet below the surface. As the roots of grasses imbibe, and draw the moisture downwards, we find that the surface, which yields sustenance to corn crops, is, in this husbandry, the least actively employed, as corn, being the most superficial of all growths, more particularly exhausts the soil
of

of its juices. Sainfoin is sowed to advantage after a clear turnip fallow, and yields near four tons of hay to the acre. Farmers in England will often have above an hundred acres of this valuable grass. Artificial pastures are now so sensibly valued, that, in all corn husbandry, they are introduced, as meliorating the soil, and preventing the exhausting of the land by repeated croppings of grain; nor is there any branch of husbandry, which has imparted such valuable information, and happy consequences.

SECT. 3. *Farms.*

THE size of farms, on these two great estates, which, as I have before shewn, comprize nearly the whole of this extensive barony, will be found to average, on Mr. Sherley's property, about six acres, and about ten on that of the Marquis of Bath: some few may hold twenty acres. A very extraordinary mode of tenure is here practised, of setting perhaps one, two, or three whole town lands, in one demise, to all the occupiers of the land, who may be from twenty to thirty joint lessees. This may certainly be a saving to the tenants, of the expence of leases, who, on one estate, may amount to three thousand in number, but it gives the landlord a very great controul, as every tenant in the town land, being jointly or severally bound, is liable to have his land drove for the rent, arrears, or hanging gale of the whole.

whole. The complete dominion of the landlord over those, who become his tenants, or may be properly styled his vassals, is very evident, and his power is ample, at all times, in reducing the disorderly to obedience. Taking the mean average of the whole barony, we find that few farmers, by this means, have in their own possession above five or six acres of land. When they pay their rent, it is always taken on account, and the tenant, who last pays, gets a receipt for the whole. The term of these leases never exceeds twenty-one years; when a life shall be added; the freeholders of this county may be increased by three or four thousand, in this one barony. The tenants pay all taxes, but quit and crown rent. A considerable quantity of these lands are tilled with the spade, so that one horse will be found to be the proportion to ten acres. Fields are very small, generally from two to four acres, but not well divided, yet much better fenced than formerly, and their cabins have a much more comfortable appearance. On Lord Bath's estate the fences are evidently the best, and all have been lately quicked, which will soon shew a fine shelter, and give this part of the country an appearance of wood, which it is now void of. Lord Bath very properly allows 40*l.* annually for the purchasing of quicks, to be distributed to his tenantry. Draining is easily accomplished; they have good falls, and strong ground, and a great part of the barony abounds with stones. Mr. Steel has drained, gravelled, and burnt a tract of moor, and has taken a regular succession of green crops, which,

after

after having for a year or two produced good meadow, has now returned to its original coarse herbage, and again thrown up all the natural aqueous plants; but it evidently has not been sufficiently drained.

I never saw a moor, that was properly manured, but continued to give the best and purest herbage. Their drains are always left open. Marle is a powerful manure here, and, when ploughed into the corn lands, has the best effect; it is found in great quantities in the moors and low lands. Lime does not answer, except mixed with clay, or bog-stuff, and then it is a sure and lasting manure. They burn in great quantities, but the ashes lose the effect, and are exhausted after a year or two. Lime is only applied in its pure unmixed state, on deep clay grounds, or those with a cold gritty soil.

HOLLY FENCES.

There is no fence more effectual than holly, and it will grow best, if taken transplanted from the seed bed; if preserved for two or three years, it will be sufficiently strong, out of all danger of cattle: it is computed to grow six inches after being transplanted, the first year; eighteen inches the second; two feet the third; and a foot for every year after, for ten or twelve years. During this time it spreads considerably, and furnishes on every side, throwing out strong prickles, and lying very close to the ground: it seldom succeeds from cuttings, but

but will never fail from the seed-bed. The plants should be carefully weeded the two first seasons, and hoed, which will greatly forward their growth.

SECT. 4. *General Subjects.*

THE population must be necessarily very great, when the lands are parcelled out in so small portions. Carrickmacross is the only town in the barony, nor is there any village. This town has an excellent market for grain, and is extremely well built; it is on the joint estate of the Marquis of Bath and of Mr. Shirley. The building plots are never set longer than for thirty-one years, and there is no such thing as a life tenure here, on either of these great estates, which nearly comprize this extensive barony, and amount to about 40,000 acres, except some land, set in perpetuity for about 600*l.* per annum, which was let by the late Marquis of Bath. Notwithstanding these discouraging leases, I know no town, which has a better appearance of wealth, and great business. Malting corn is the greatest pursuit here, and they pay immense sums annually in excise. In this town it is computed, that no less than 1,500*l.* weekly, from the first of January to the first of May, is paid for pigs. The pig-jobbers and the Newry butchers as regularly attend this market, as the linen markets are frequented by the merchants; the pigs are all bought for the

the provision trade, and exported from Newry. For some time in the busy season, horses are purchased here, to the amount of 500*l.* per week, and the sale of cows may average 400*l.*

A considerable quantity of yarn is sold in the market, and, for some time, were webs also, but that trade is now discontinued, Carrickmacross lying too remote from the towns, which the merchants constantly frequent.

The centre of the main street of this town is the line of division between the two estates, and the market-house stands on both properties. The church is a very neat and ornamental building, with a handsome steeple, and stands fronting the main street; it contributes very much to the engaging appearance of this very handsome town. Here is also an excellent brewery.

The habitations in this barony are warm, though mean. In some parts of Donomayne parish fuel is rather scarce, and here they will soonest feel the want of it: in other places through the barony, there is no deficiency. Their cloathing is a warm but coarse frize, made at home, and stuff had from Connaught: the peasantry are almost all clad well with shoes and stockings; their food potatoes and oatmeal; they have milk in abundance, but they never use their butter; it is all sold in Carrickmacross.

Average price of meal, for seven years back, 12*s.* per cwt.; of potatoes, 2*d.* per stone, a barrel of which contains thirty-two stone. In this average the two latter scarce years are not taken into account.

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In these small farms there is little paid for labour, as the tenant's family is always able to compass the work of his own plot. The few gentry, who reside, pay from 10*d.* to 1*s.* per day through the year. Tithe is very reasonably estimated by the incumbent, but the tithe farmers are in many instances oppressive and severe; they have no modus, but annually value the crops. The roads and bridges are in good repair; the old roads are extremely hilly: on the Bath estate they have now some excellent and well planned new roads. Those, which were made no later than twenty years ago, reflect no credit on the miserable engineers, who chose the steepest hills for the sake of a straight line, and left the valleys untouched, through which a level line might be easily found. That part of the barony, which ranges next Cremourne, would not produce good bere or barley, and oats is the principal crop. The barley and wheat ground is much more considerable, and lies contiguous to Carrickmacross. A coal mine has been discovered on Mr. Shirley's estate, and above two tons were raised, which were of most excellent quality, and lay very near the surface, after which some expence was incurred in sinking a shaft, but the proprietor chose to shut it up. To the adjoining county of Louth this would prove a valuable discovery, if permitted to be worked, and would doubtless pay very well; the freestone quarries, and the mineral tinge of the water, which issues from them, shew a great indication of coal here, and many small veins of coal appear. Specie is most generally the

currency,

currency; all the pigs and the corn are paid for in such. The great supply of corn, the quantity of fuel, and the advantage of the excellent market of Carrickmacross, all seem very encouraging for the establishment of a manufactory; the only bar in the way appears to be the very limited term of leases. In this barony are several oatmeal mills, but they have no good falls, or supplies of water; in the neighbouring county of Louth are many, which this district has all the advantage of. In the planning of mills, it ought to be considered, whether they may not be of more detriment than service, where the nature of the site does not favour their erection. An old mill here was lately demolished, by which means were regained five hundred acres of land, that was overflowed from the dams, that were made to keep up the supply of water; and the entire value of the concern was not worth a twentieth part of the land it rendered useless. Except at Monalty, there is scarce any appearance of wood, but here is some old timber, and very neat screens and pleasure-grounds: the new approach will be handsome, and the young plantations beyond the road will have a very pretty effect. At Rock-Savage, Inniskeen, and Donamoyne, there are also a few trees, but no gross timber. I think there is a good deal of this barony very fit for the cultivation of hemp, which ought to be encouraged. There are no nurseries for trees nearer than Collon in the county of Louth, and timber is no where here for sale, but had from Dundalk for building, or at a greater distance for country work.

work. This district cannot be said to have a profusion of bog, and they have scarce any waste lands. In the southerly parts are some grafs lands, which are excellent, and here the farms are considerably more extensive. Three miles to the eastward of Carrickmacross, on the town lands of Drumlaff, on the estate of the Marquis of Bath, the north side is mountainous, and of a cold gritty clay, and the south side all marley. Here, all surveyors have agreed of the great variation of the needle, in an uncommon degree, which is probably occasioned by some hidden mineral that affects it. The men here are very industrious, and manufacture is more pursued towards the borders of the barony, where the land is poor. They sow all the flax, which they manufacture, and nearer to Louth they are very much engaged in journeywork; the merchants in Drogheda, and also in the northern towns, give them yarn to weave at home, which they return in web. The linen trade has here been encreased twenty fold in twenty years. The women are not so industriously inclined as in the northern part of the county; they make but a slothful appearance, and are seldom met without a petticoat on their shoulders, which they wear in all weathers, and which, I am told, is particularly made for the purpose of a cloak. They all speak the English and Irish languages fluently enough.

Marle is not sufficiently used in manure, though many town lands abound with it, and the pits contain a
treasure,

treasure, for which these grounds are pining: in the deeper pits it is generally found more pure.

Clover is very much sown for soil and pasture, and is off in a year or two; few small farmers but sow a good deal of it. Mr. Steele has shewn them the example of saving the seed on very easy terms, having employed some children to pull the heads when fully ripe, and, for a few shillings, he collected as much seed as would have cost above twenty guineas. Near Carrick the ground is particularly good for tillage: I shall shew a remarkable instance of its fertility, as well as of the great price of corn. A farmer sold from a single acre, last year, thirty-eight guineas worth of corn, and immediately after sowed cabbage, the plants of which, in the next spring, he sold for twenty guineas. This man's rent was but 20s. per acre; deduct his seed, and all expences: the return of one acre amounted to above fifty guineas clear profit.

This extensive district can be more minutely described, as so few proprietors enjoy it. The estate of Mr. Shirley contains 18,690 plantation acres, and branches into every parish in the barony, except Inniskeen, and is bounded by the counties of Cavan, Louth, and Meath; three hundred and fifty of these acres are under lakes, and about one-fifth of the lands are of a limestone soil. At the time of the division of this farm from the Bath estate, which originally were joined, it is supposed a fair partition of the property was made; the better lands being kept by the Bath family, and

and to this estate given the greater number of acres, as the circumference of it will be found to exceed thirty Irish miles.

The estate, which the Marquis of Bath enjoys here, contains 13,955 plantation acres, about 880 of which are in lake and bog, and branches into each parish, but that of Magheracloon, and has but one town land in Inniskeen. This estate exceeds twenty miles in circumference, and one-fourth of it has a limestone soil.

In Inniskeen are two very small denominations; the proprietors are Lord Louth and Lord Ludlow, but these branch with this parish into the county of Louth: the remaining part of Inniskeen is all church property, and the whole of the church lands in this barony amount to 5000 acres, which belong to the Primate, and the see of Clogher.

Mr. Brownlow, I have already said, has 2000 acres in fee-farm perpetuity, from Lord Essex, for 40*l.* annually.

The south-east part of this barony is by far the best, and very fit for sheep-walk. The northern side of the hills is best, where the soil is limestone; the southern, where it is of clay and grit.

This extensive barony was originally granted by Queen Elizabeth to the Earl of Essex, and with it a denomination called Island Magee; no such place being now known here, perhaps it was that of the same name, in the county of Antrim; but this whole grant was afterwards forfeited by the Earl, and let in fee farm to another

another person, whose name was Barton, for two thousand pounds annually; but he not being able to pay so large a sum in the troubles, that then prevailed in Ireland, he had the leases cancelled, and the whole country was then granted to another Earl of Essex, (excepting the church lands) and by family connection from thence descended to the present possessors.

The town of Carrickmacross was originally Magh-eross, and was founded by Ross, the son of Ross (a famous Irish chieftain), on a white rock, which is in the Irish language a Carricque, so that its derivation appears to be the Town of the Son of Ross.

In the reign of Queen Anne, a school was founded here anno 1711, by Lord Weymouth, and a fund appropriated for the payment of the master: notwithstanding this endowment was duly perfected, and a house and land conveyed to trustees for the use of the school, yet there is not one child educated, although the salary, house, &c. is enjoyed. This is really a grievance, deserving particular investigation, and will be found to prevail too often in many parts of Ireland, where the benevolent intention of the founder is so grossly misapplied.

I shall here give the heads of the original statutes of the school, to shew the great powers, which the visitors possess, of enforcing the original laws, which perhaps they are strangers to.

HEADS.

HEADS.

1st Statute—Ordaining, that a master shall be ever appointed over said school, who shall have been a graduate of an English or Irish university, a layman, or if in orders, shall hold no benefice or cure, and shall not have leave of absence from his school longer than five weeks in each year, which ever must be subject to the permission of the visitors.

2nd. That the master shall be chosen by Lord Weymouth, his heirs, and assigns, under approbation of the visitors.

3rd. That the scholars shall be taught all modern and ancient languages.

4th. That an usher shall be nominated by the master, and approved by visitors.

5th. That there shall be no appointment nor orders made by master or usher, without special permission of the visitors.

6th. That the children on the estate shall be taught gratis.

7th. Infectious pupils to be sent away.

8th. No barring out permitted, if any, the offenders shall be expelled.

9th. For the preservation of desks, furniture, &c.

10th. Regulating the hours of attendance, and permitting a play day to be purchased for the sum of five shillings, which the master is to give to the best scholar.

11th.

11th. Prayers daily to be read in the family.

12th. Providing for Sundays duties, church and catechism.

13th. A register of the scholars to be kept, and their destination in life.

14th. Master's salary, seventy pounds British.

15th. Obliging the master to keep the school in repair.

16th. Nominating the visitors, who are, the Lord Primate, Vice-Chancellor of the University in Ireland, the Bishop of Clogher, the Provost of Trinity College, all for the time being; two of them, at least, shall hold a visitation in summer, and make enquiries, regulations, &c.

17th. If the visitors shall find the master negligent of his duty, or guilty of any impropriety, they shall under hand and seal acquaint the patron, who is bound to remove or expel him, and appoint a successor.

18th. Contains the signature and approbation of the patron, acknowledging and confirming all the statutes, under which they are confirmed by patent.

How far these rules are adhered to, may be judged, when it is known, that the master of the school, or the person enjoying the house, land, salary, &c. is a clergyman, possessing a benefice of six hundred pounds annual value, and has not either usher or scholar.

Not having the pleasure of knowing this gentleman, he cannot conceive, that any other motive actuates me
in

in this disclosure, but that of giving a fair and candid representation of facts : to withhold them, I should, in this case, consider a particular breach of my duty, nor from his good character and fortune, can it be supposed, he would wish to give the least opposition to the full force of the statutes being carried into execution, which, doubtless, both the patron and the visitors would, from their love for the furtherance of literature, be happy to attend to.

This barony contains five parishes, as follows :—

The parish of Magherofs has four large lakes, and thirteen lesser ones, and also four extensive bogs, the town of Carrickmacross, and the demesne of Lisinisk, with the glebe of Derryolim; the village of Ballytreen bounds it on Cremourne side, and its bounds extend to within one mile of Shercock, in the county of Cavan; the glebe of this parish contains one hundred acres, and it has also a parsonage. There is a modus in this parish of sixpence, for any quantity of hay, in the payment of tithe.

The parish of Donaghmoyne West has two extensive, and three lesser lakes: except to the westward of this parish, there is a lackage of bog; it has no town or village, but the demesnes of Longfield, Rahens, and Vicarsdale, where there is a castle in ruins; one town land, called the Butter Cake, was supposed to have been glebe, and is now in the possession of the Moor family, who enjoy one third of the tithes of Magherofs

rofs and of this parish, and two thirds of the tithe of Magheracloony.

The parish of Donaghmoyne East, united to the preceding, and now rated as one only, has six small lakes, and bog well partitioned throughout, and has Rock-savage, Annageril and Calgogh demesnes; these united parishes have an hundred acres of glebe, and a parsonage. This parish has both a grit and limestone soil, is almost all under tillage, and has some excellent flax lands; a great part is very fit for sheep walk, but now, under malting corn.

Magheracloony parish has two extensive lakes, and the river, which divides it from Magherofs, rising south, and branching through the north and west districts of the parish, in two directions; it has also nine lesser lakes, three of which are not inconsiderable; the northern part of the parish is not well supplied with bog; the demesne of Dawson Lodge, and the castle of Maghernaclich are here, and the glebe at Camachy contains thirty acres, and a parsonage. One hundred and fifty acres of this parish, which now pay tithes to this county, formerly paid it to the county of Meath, and are the property of Mr. Garston, in the county of Louth, and set in perpetuity; here is a good house and demesne.

That part of Killaney parish, which is in this barony, hath one very extensive lake, which narrows to the centre, so that a bridge crosses it, on the old road to
Ardee,

Ardee : it has, besides, twelve smaller lakes and a large tract of bog to the south and east ; on its borders, east, is Drumscrucy glebe, of an hundred acres, and Essex Ford ; the parsonage is in the county of Louth ; the demesnes of Monalty and Aghafad are also in this parish.

That part of Inniskeen parish, which is in Farney, touches on two other counties, viz. Armagh and Louth. A very rapid river intersects the parish, running through these two counties, and divides East Donamoyne from this parish, and also along the extent of that parish, from Armagh county ; it is very scanty of bog, but has the demesnes of Candlefort, Lattaghtagh, and Drumservin ; this parish has forty acres of glebe, and a parsonage, but full one third of this and the preceding parish is in the county of Louth.

At Inniskeen stands a round tower, which differs from all those I have seen, as the door is on the level with the surface ; it has also a window, and it is by no means so high as the tower at Clones. Contiguous to it is a circular mound, enclosed with lime and stone walls, and has some resemblance to that near Aghavoe, in the Queen's county.

Here is also an excellent stone bridge of five arches, near the church of Inniskeen, and crosses the river, which falls from the lakes at Castleblaney, already spoken of.

This country abounds with numerous Danish forts, which would have a very pretty effect, if planted, as they

they lie very high, and a complete chain of them runs through the centre of the barony, from east to west ; some of these are encircled with stone walls, and shew some vestiges of strong works.

Near Carrickmacross, is one of these great Druidical temples, which are seen in some parts of Ireland. It consists of an oblong mound of earth, which widens to the centre, and is there twenty feet across ; at either end it measures but eight feet, and is an hundred feet long. This mound was inclosed with great oblong stones, set up on an end ; a good deal of it has been destroyed for the sake of the limestone, which surrounds it.

It may not be unacceptable to say a few words of the quondam village of Blackstaff, which is now no more. This village was composed of about two hundred miserable cabbins, and its site was in the centre of five hundred acres of a great range of bog, heath, and immense rock, which altogether had as gloomy and forbidden a view, as could be presented to the eye ; the district around these habitations was so wretched, so lately as ten years ago, that it had never been attempted to be cultivated ; and the poor people, who inhabited them, each had then a very limited portion of land, at a considerable distance from Blackstaff. A curious law prevailed in this village for centuries, and was always implicitly attended to, until the colony were dispersed, and their huts levelled. On a particular day, annually, all the inhabitants

habitants met together, and chose from amongst themselves a mayor or chief magistrate, to whom was entrusted the care of the village, and he was invested with due power and authority to maintain order and proper conduct amongst his fellow citizens. This potentate decided all quarrels and disputes, and there never was an instance known of an appeal from his decree, so impartially was justice administered. The only qualification for this office was the largest potatoe garden, whose occupier was sure to be elected mayor; his fees of office, on any application, was a bottle of whiskey, which he always invited the disputants to partake of with him, that he might see them friends again; and it so happened, whether from the little quarrels of his neighbours, or their love for conviviality, so much of his time had he to devote to the joys of the bottle, that his potatoe garden was neglected during his mayoralty, and never was there an instance of his enjoying it for two successive years. It is not a little extraordinary, that so implicit an obedience was paid to his decisions, that the neighbouring magistrates had never any trouble from this quarter.

The inconvenient distance of their habitations from their farms, and the danger of allowing so many families in close compact in the late disturbed times, occasioned the necessity of dispersing them, and cabins having been rebuilt on their several farms, they were reluctantly obliged to abandon their favourite village,
which

which they long had clung to with all the inherent fondness, which attaches human nature to our native soil; nor has their patriotism been extinguished, as they yet frequently visit its dear remains, and on the ruins of Blackstaff, they still celebrate their ancient sports and pastimes.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER X.

BARONY OF TROUGH.

SECTION I.

Agriculture.

THIS is by far the poorest barony in the county, the soil being an ungrateful stiff yellow clay, or a poor spongy loam, covering a cold grit, scarce any appearance of limestone; the peasantry are numerous, their culture is not without excessive and manual labour, and the scanty produce of the ground dearly earned. Potatoes and oats are their only crops; they have no oxen, and but very few horses; all their implements of husbandry are of the commonest kind. Monaghan, which is but an indifferent market, is the nearest town, and having no sheep, they never cultivate any green food for winter. Except with the few gentry who reside here, some of whom have taken much pains in the improvement of agriculture, and will be just now spoken of, there is nothing to be seen but the most discouraging soil, and great poverty among the peasants.

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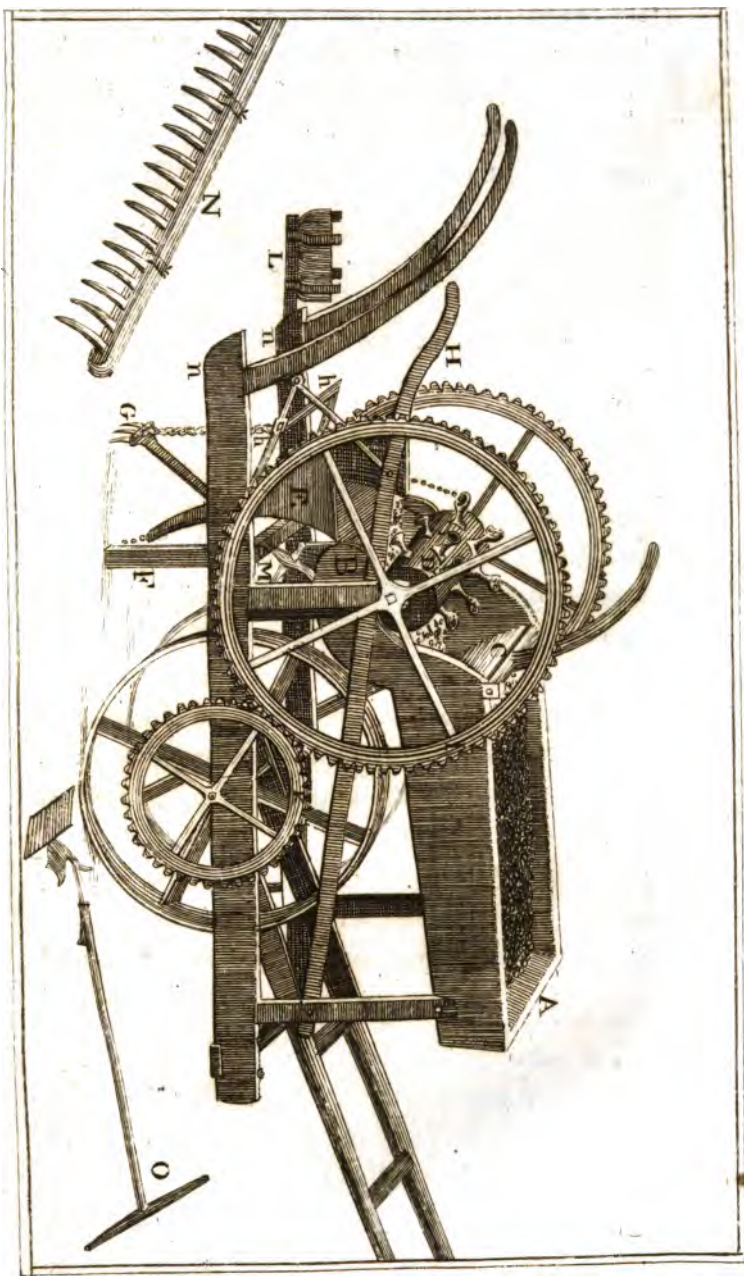
DRILL

DRILL HUSBANDRY.

The great advantage of drill husbandry, which is capitally performed by the annexed plan of Cooke's patent drill machine*, is shewn in many instances, but in none more particularly than in the saving of the seed, as it requires full one half less than the usual way of scattering with the hand. In examining this process, it has more and more to recommend it; for the great exactness, with which the seed is introduced into the ground, leaves that part between the drills receiving a high preparation, by fallow, against the succeeding year, which can be done by changing the drills into last year's furrows, and in sowing turnip seed it is particularly useful; as by carefully mixing two pounds of seed with about four or five cart loads of ashes, and putting it, after this preparation, into the hopper of the plough the seed is thus lapped up in its natural manure, as it is sowed in, and the hoe has room to operate; this plough has also the advantage of making the drills to any required distance asunder, so that the crop may be easily horse hoed. It is well known, that a very considerable saving could be made in the article of seed, were this mode practised, in preference to sowing in the broad cast, and here all weeds are more easily rooted out, with half the expense; besides, corn sowed in drills

* For references see the conclusion.

Forkes's Patent Drill Machine.



drills will never lodge, which is a matter of so great importance. The only objection against drill husbandry must be the difficulty of procuring labourers equal to work the machines: as to the plough here given, it seems equal to answer the whole process which machinery could effect.

SECT. 2. *Pasture.*

THE pasture is cold, and a poor spiry grass, and the nearer we approach to the Slieve-Baught mountains, the worse it grows. The breed of cattle is stunted and very coarse, and have had no pains taken in their improvement, yet they are excellent for the pail, when brought down to more luxuriant grass. They are total strangers to artificial grasses; their meadows are late, and yield a coarse strong hay. As to hides, wool, or tallow, they have neither manufacture amongst them, nor the means of supplying it.

RYE, TIMOTHY-GRASS.

Independent of the value of rye for the grain, it can be cultivated to great advantage for soiling cattle, to be cut green, it will also feed sheep extremely well in spring.

Timothy-grass is a very excellent and a lasting herbage, and can be sowed with corn; the hay it yields is but coarse, but the crop is very abundant, yet not early in pasturage, and is powerfully nutritious: it may also be sowed in drills, and requires to be well hoed and weeded in its early state.

SECT. 3. *Farms.*

ARE in no larger proportion than those mentioned before, except on the mountain, where they contain forty or fifty acres. The cabins through the country are wretchedly bad, and a few peasants have the comfort of a cow. The women labour much in the fields, and handle the spade very dexterously; they also spin a great deal of yarn, which is sold in Monaghan. Fences are scarcely at all attended to, and their manure consists of every kind of stiff clay, dung, &c., which can be scraped together; it is all devoted to potatoe agriculture, and carried out on the backs of the poor people, who cannot afford to keep a horse, for the use of their little farm.

MANURES.

In making composts of manure, it should be observed, that a layer of dung and lime should never come in contact; as they are both of so hot a nature, they
burn,

burn, rather than impart gradual heat. English farmers, who have studied these matters with great attention, are fond of the following compost: they first spread a thin layer of stable dung, next, one of the purest earth they can get, which is covered with a layer of lime, the same earth again, and, alternately, dung, earth, and lime. This heap is made in winter; the next summer it is cut down perpendicularly, and turned twice, and, in the following winter, turned again; when it is considered as having lain long enough, and sufficiently incorporated for use. It will be found a safe manure for corn of any kind, and an excellent top-dressing. Even shallow soils, with limestone bottoms, when covered with a stratum of this, have given good potatoes, in a dry season, which, without it, would scarcely have produced at all; and, when the season was rainy, no finer produce could be yielded, equal to 160 barrels to the acre.

SECT. 4. *General Subjects.*

THIS country is less populous than any part of Monaghan: some of the roads are extremely bad, and, notwithstanding the many disadvantages it labours under, yet will those lands bring from twenty to thirty shillings per acre, on which the poor tenants toil incessantly, and might be said to starve rather than to live, were it not
for

for their manufacture. Scarcely a cabin is without a loom or two, and webs are brought to market from hence to Armagh and Monaghan. Wages are high, seldom less than 1s. per day, but there is little demand for labour. Oatmeal averages 12s. per cwt., and potatoes $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ per stone. Tithe is valued every year, and may be about 6s. per acre, the average for oats. Contiguous to the town of Glaslough is a good brewery, from whence the neighbourhood is well supplied. The roads are narrow, hilly, and in indifferent repair, excepting the high road from Monaghan. The country is tolerably well watered, but there is no established fishery. The linen manufacture is rapidly encreasing, and the chief dependence of the people; they have also excellent potter's-clay, and there is a pottery in the town of Lifgoa, near Glaslough, for coarse ware, from which all the neighbouring fairs and markets are supplied; the clay is stiff, and a very deep yellow. After having mixed the clay well into a stiff compost, it is moulded on a plane wheel, set in a horizontal position, which is turned by a second person; they then apply litharge of lead, pounded, and mixed with manganese and lead melted, until it pulverizes; after having dipped the vessel in water, with which cow-dung is mixed, to make the adhesion of the lead the greater, it is drudged with the powder, and baked, when it becomes thus glazed; the lead is pulverized by constant stirring over the fire, after it is melted, but the caldron, in which it is melted, must be of iron, and the lead stirred also with an iron rod: they
ornament

ornament this rude ware with verdigrease, and the fine clay had from Cairn-more, which here costs 10s. the small load, brought down in baskets across the back of an horse: the potter also scrapes rude figures on these vessels, before they are baked, which raises them in no small degree in the estimation of purchasers; the scraped line appears red, which is the colour of the native clay when baked; the white glazed part of the Cairn-more clay is only used for ornament. The lead is always the last application for glazing: the hundred weight of manganese costs 17s., and of Cairn-more clay 15s.; a coarser kind of manganese is also used, and mixed with this mineral, which gives a deep jet black colour to this ware; it is found in abundance on the town land of Coolcollet, on the Blackwater river, between Donagh and Tiholland, on the estate of Colonel Leslie. The finer manganese is had from England, although every county in Ireland abounds with it; it is also found in this country, and near Glaslough, on the bank of the mill-stream of Knockbawn, wherein was also raised a quantity of iron-stone; in quarrying it was discovered, and with it excellent potter's-clay and lead ore. Near Castleblaney, and on the town land of Mayallgash, likewise abounds, with this clay, red and yellow ochre. The rent of the pottery-pits is but one guinea and a half per annum, and the sale from thence may be under 100l. per annum.

To the demesne of Anketell's Grove, which is ornamented with very fine timber, Colonel Anketell has lately

lately added about seventy Irish acres of plantation, which are inclosed in the best manner, and are in the most promising state. This demesne is rapidly improving, and a very handsome bridge of one arch is now building over the rapid river, which waters those beautiful meads. The bed of this river is a quarry of green stone, for a great length, and, in working it, lately, the quarry-men struck on the iron stone, such as usually covers coal-mine; under it they found a vein of excellent coal, about two inches thick: if this was properly examined, it is likely it would repay the cost of working it. On the estate adjoining this demesne, Colonel Anketell has lately built some very neat cottages for his labourers; they are extremely well planned, and consist of a kitchen, dairy, and closet below, with two good rooms overhead; the walls are built of stone and mortar, and they have glazed windows: the cost is about 10/. Some of these have two cabins under one roof, on a most excellent plan, but the cost is proportionably higher. Through the demesne are some excellent sewers, which are very well constructed. The extensive plantations here will soon give this part of the country a great appearance of wood. A very capital mansion-house will be erected, in a commanding situation, to which its approach is planned, with much happy effect.

If a pleasing diversity of wood, water, and extensive prospect, with a beautiful irregularity of surface, constitute the finer features of demesne ground, it may be truly said, that Anketell's Grove possesses all those capabilities,

pabilities, and the most correct and elegant taste is displayed throughout all the valuable improvements. Trough Lodge, where Colonel Anketell now resides, is built after a very neat and commodious plan, with a most excellent square of offices, and some very fine and ornamental plantations.

About two miles from hence is Fort Singleton, the seat of Thomas Singleton, Esq. This demesne exhibits the most excellent draining I have seen, and, by great pains and expence, is now rendered very valuable land. The plantations are prettily disposed; the rere of the demesne has a very happy undulation for improvements, and the great hill, on the right of the approach, is almost entirely enclosed with plantation, and on its summit was the ancient Danish fort, from which the demesne is now named. The land around here sets very high, and following a very narrow and hilly road towards Tidavnet, its average rates are not much less than 30s. per acre, which is considerably above its value.

At Glennan, in this barony, is a very valuable quarry of grey marble, which is limestone, and forms the bed of the Blackwater river, about twelve feet deep, extending considerably at both sides of its banks. This marble is raised in great blocks, and a great indication of coal appears in this quarry, though limestone: this is a very valuable acquisition in this country, and furnishes very capital door-cases, which are sold from twenty to forty guineas at the quarry; chimney-pieces 5s. 5d. per foot; gate-posts 11s. 4½d. per pair; a head-stone

1l.

1*l.* 14*s.* 1½*d.*; and tomb-stones from five to forty guineas each, with pillars of excellent workmanship; common slabs, with short supporters, ten guineas; hearth-stones 2*s.* 2*d.* per foot, superficial measure. The proprietor pays twenty guineas annual rent for this quarry; he has generally twenty people employed every day, and there is a very great demand for his work. This stone has a particular and pretty effect in window-frames, piers, or rusticated work, and, when polished and coloured with linseed oil, it has an excellent face. The quarry stands on the joint estate of Messrs. Burton and Johnston.

Near Glennon is a thickly inhabited neighbourhood, where above an hundred carpenters reside, who are constantly employed in furnishing the neighbouring fairs and markets with the several articles of country work and furniture; the adjoining wood supplies them with timber on very cheap terms.

The town of Glaslough is but a short distance from Glennon; it has a striking engaging appearance, and some very excellent slated houses, two stories high, but it has at present no trade; Colonel Leslie, on whose estate it is, intends to pay much attention to its improvement in this respect; his beautiful seat, of the same name, immediately adjoins the town, where farming is pursued with true spirit, and is rewarded with that success, which a happy love for improvement, and a grateful soil, will always return. A great tract of deep bog
has

has been reclaimed to the finest meadow, and annually a considerable part is brought in; here is the lime-stone-gravel, which is so particularly required for this improvement, and forty acres of green crops have been this season cultivated for stall-fed cattle: twenty of these acres are under potatoes, sixteen under turnips, and four under carrots; immense quantities of rich manure are thus gained: six hundred acres are inclosed in this fine demesne; more than a hundred acres are under wood and plantation, which are bounded by a fine lake, covering eighty acres. The mansion-house was originally a castle of great magnificence in its day, flanked with circular towers, and defended with a moat and draw-bridge. These beautiful and venerable appendages of military architecture, with the towers, were taken away, and two wings after a modern plan were erected, which has quite spoiled the antique and fine effect of this castle, the only one in the county deserving that distinguishing title. A bowling-green fronted the hall, which is still preserved, and around it are some of the finest beech-trees I have seen, verging on the church-yard; some of these girth to twelve or sixteen feet.

Emy-Vale, which stands on the same estate, is about two miles distant from Glaslough, and is a very neat and clean, though poor village, with very little trade, and has no market: around, it is inhabited by weavers. The high road to Derry passes through here, and there is a comfortable little inn. The land is unprofitable in the

the neighbourhood in its present state, but by no means contemptible, as being very reclaimable by gravelling, and abundance of materials convenient. Little wheat is sown in this country, but mostly all the crops are potatoes and oats. The rich vein of land lines off from hence, and just touches on its borders, towards Monaghan.

On the stream, that skirts Emy-Vale, is a small mill for working iron, principally spades, shovels, and heavy work, which are forged by the sledge, worked with water. Robert Mc. Morron, the proprietor, is a very ingenious man, whose industry and abilities really deserve encouragement. In this forge sixty spades will be finished in one day, by the work of three men; one to the bellows, one to the fire, and a third to hold the bar under the sledge, which is raised by a low crank from the water-wheel, fifteen inches above the anvil, and strikes twenty-four blows in a minute. The spade contains $5\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. of iron, and half a pound of steel, wrought together to six pound; the handles cost 4s. 6d. per dozen, wholesale: one of these, when finished, is sold by retail for 6s. 6d., or to the merchant for 6s.; they are most excellent and durable work, and of a very convenient and proper form. A corn-mill is on the same stream, but of inconsiderable account.

In such an inland county, without collieries, it may be supposed they are at a great loss for coal for their forges; but they remedy this want, by making charcoal of turf, which

which is very effectual, when great fires are not wanted. This method of charring the turf is, by heaping a pretty good quantity of it together, in the centre of which the fire is placed, and, when it burns until the heap is red, it is quickly covered with clay; thus the fire is smothered. They also make it by burning in small square pits, and extinguish the fire, by covering it with a flag fitted to it. Light fuzzy turf, with vegetable particles, will not answer, such as is found near the surface; neither will the black hard turf, which is deep in the bog, as not being porous enough; but the brown turf, which lies between these two kinds, having ligneous particles, will be found to be the best kind for this purpose, and answers all the uses, as required in any forges short of furnace: a little Swansea coal would be necessary to be mixed with this, for welding strong work. All turf here is cut perpendicularly, and the cost of rearing it is 20s. per hundred loads, of two panniers, across a horse's back, and a sack, containing as much more, lying between them. The value of turf, when charred, and its efficacy as a manure, is strikingly obvious, in the extraordinary produce, which the refuse of this heap yields, when put out on land, as they have no manure at all equal to it; and it is surprising, that, in a country where so much bog abounds, which could be thus manufactured, at so little expence, it is not particularly followed for this purpose. It is a matter deserving minute enquiry, and in many parts, where white ashes only are produced from the bog, and,

as

as such, considered as incapable of producing manure, by charring it might be brought to yield the most valuable kind: the salts and sulphur the soil contains, are all preserved, and are particularly kind for wheat, rape, turnips, or clover: there is no danger of their hurting the corn crops, if laid on late in the spring, and the following year the land is brought to great heart with this manure. The great matter in charring bog for manure is, to admit as little air as possible to the fire. The white earth, which abounds with rich shelly marl, if burnt with their turf, yields the most valuable and a highly calcareous substance. I have seen small square kilns erected particularly for burning marl; a great flag covers them, when it is necessary to extinguish the fire: this, mixed with a clayey compost, is the richest surface-dressing for meadows, and vegetable crops. This pursuit of experiments on bog, in its various states of mud, ashes, or charcoal, is worthy the minutest investigation, and yielding in itself the finest meadow, when properly managed, it at the same time furnishes the richest and best revigorating manures for uplands.

The river, which flows by Emy-Vale, is a branch of the Blackwater, which rises in the mountains, and though at the same time it appears so insignificant a stream, yet, after rain, will fall in violent torrents, sweeping all before it; it is a dangerous and irresistible current, which oftentimes breaks down the bridges,

bridges, that baffle all the art of the builder in making them sufficiently strong to resist it. The strand is of that kind of stone, which is here called whin-stone; it is a dark green colour, very hard, and not siliceous. There is no appearance of limestone throughout, but at Glennon, which has been already spoken of.

This barony contains but two parishes; Errigle is of the most northern, and has the lake near Emy-Vale on the southern boundary, and Lough More on the north-west, and on the bounds of the county of Tyrone, from which it is divided by the Blackwater river; along the southern bounds of this parish, are great tracts of bog; it has the demesne of Fort Singleton and Ivy-Hill, the glebe and parsonage at Errigle and Blaney's Bridge.

In Donagh parish are the great lakes of Glaslough, and three lesser loughs; the demesnes of Glaslough, Anketell's Grove, Trough Lodge, and Falkland, whence is some excellent timber; the villages of Glaslough and Emy-Vale, and the glebe at Bishop's-Place. Immense tracts of bog lie between Glaslough and Falkland. Tyrone and Armagh counties join this county, near the demesne of Glaslough, at the bridge over the Blackwater, which just leads into the town of Caledon.

A famous battle was fought at the breaks of Drumbanagher, in this barony, above a century ago, between the Irish army and the militia; the latter
were

were headed by Colonel Anketell, the ancestor of the present family. After an obstinate contest with a great majority of the enemy, the militia were victorious, through the consummate skill of their commander, and their own distinguished courage.

CHAPTER

YOKE FROM THE HORN.

To face page 161—County Monaghan Survey.

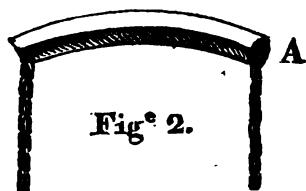
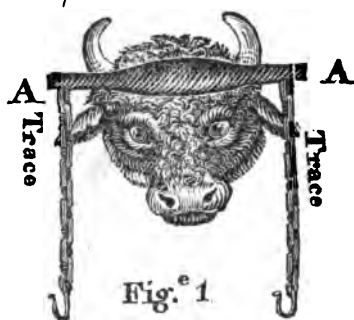


Fig. 1. This Yoke consists of a flat piece of ash, about eight inches wide in the middle, and reduced to about three inches at the ends, (falling off like the handle of a battledore,) and is proportioned in length to the size of the ox, the object being just to clear his sides from the traces, or chains, by this is meant the distance between the letters, A. A. This board is lined with woollen cloth, and stuffed with hair. To an iron stape affixed at either end is hooked a long trace or chain, which reaches from the extremities of the swindle-tree: it must be observed, that the draught is consequently from the neck, where the strength of that animal prevails, and not at all from the horns, to which the board is only strapped, to prevent its falling off; so that the ox, rather pushes than pulls in this yoke. For further particulars, and experiments, See King's County Reports, Chapter 8, Barony of Ballibritt.

Fig. 2. Represents the back-band for the horn yoke, the inside is stuffed with hair, the circles at A. are plates of iron, nailed to the wood, which is of ash, fourteen inches long, and three and an half broad, concaved within, to lie across the back of the ox: from either end hangs a chain of five links, to which the traces are hooked up.

CHAPTER XI.

BARONY OF MONAGHAN.

SECT. I.

Agriculture.

THIS barony in excellence of soil, and the choice crops it yields, is far superior to any other part of this county. In the low lands, they seldom yoke more than two horses to the plough, and in the hilly parts, three are more commonly used. Oats are the most favourite grain, and yield so abundantly, that they occupy the best grounds, but potatoes will be found the leading and frequently the second crop; if the ground is at all moory or bottom, it is here the oats are so abundant; in higher and dry grounds barley is sown; they sow all white oats in the low lands of this barony. Their farms are about the average of eight acres, and are thus appropriated; two cows, or a cow and horse, will occupy three and an half acres of grass, and half an acre of meadow: three fourths of an acre of potatoes; three acres of oats, and one fourth of flax. The flax always occupies

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occupies a quarter of an acre of last year's potatoe ground, and barley the remainder; they are also fond of rearing a calf every year, and sell a little butter, which, though in a small quantity from each farm, yet, so many being engaged in this trade, occasions a great deal to be sent to market, in Monaghan town, from whence it all goes to Newry for export; very few have yet cultivated green food for winter, as they have scarce any ground under sheep walk. Humphry Evatt, Esq. of Mount-Louise has practised it with success, and this gentleman's experimental and spirited farming I shall again have occasion to speak of. Here, they sow twenty-eight stone of oats to the acre, and reap, on an average, thirteen barrels; the acre of potatoes will yield sixty barrels of thirty-two stone each.

DIFFERENCE IN THE ROOTS OF PLANTS.

Plants with tap-roots do not succeed in land, where other crops rooted in like manner have been before them, as trefoil after sainfoin, &c. It is the spreading rooted plant, which thrives best after a deep rooted one, and this certainly deserves our particular attention. It is evident whatever will divide, pulverize, or ferment the soil, will keep it in the best state for vegetation of every kind: thus, oats will thrive where barley will perish, and why? Because, oats will root and penetrate a hard soil, which resists the more feeble root

root of barley. I apprehend, this is very much the reason, why barley is injured by the worm, where it has not a strong root; for, if barley is too luxuriant at first shooting, we eat it down with sheep, and we find this serves the crop. If we were careful to roll it, I conceive it would make it root more firmly, and expose it less to the mercy of the red worm; I have seen this experiment tried with success in the same field, when the other part of the crop failed, that was not treated so; and it was attributed to the method I have now recited.

SECT. 2. *Pasture.*

THEIR pasture is very rich, and in letting out their ground, they sow white clover with the grass seeds: by the encreasing sale of clover seed every year, in the town of Monaghan, it is evident, they are more attentive to this valuable herbage; they also sow a spot of clover for soil for their cattle, which they always mow twice and frequently three times a year; the first and last crops are but poor, but the second is always the best; they also mix oats in the seed of clover, for soil, and cut it green, which the cattle devour greedily; they estimate, that one acre of soil is more productive than four acres of common pasture.

The breed of cattle is not much improved, and is bought in for beef, from the seventeenth of May, which is the fair day of Scotstown, and the great leading fair

of cattle, to the twenty-eighth of May, the fair day of Monaghan, and thence to the second of June. Their times of selling out are from September to December; net profit will average two guineas per head; they are fond of selling out forward cattle, early in August, and of buying in a poorer kind from the mountain farms, which are fat by December, and will return an average of thirty shillings per head: they feed their beef cows to three and an half or four cwt. One thousand acres of this barony may be annually fed off, and only about one thousand five hundred more are in the other baronies; but a considerable quantity of land is well adapted for this branch of husbandry, which is otherwise employed. Where the country is so extremely populous, they can spare but little for grafs lands. Here, two cows will not occupy more than three acres, and in other parts, five acres will be rather over-stocked with the same proportion, so that the average is easily found. No sheep are fed for market, and only for use of the gentry. Belfast market regulates the price of beef cows. Horses are little bred, and much less than formerly, as the size of farms is still more and more reduced. In this and several of the northern counties of Ireland, they use a small, though strong breed of cattle, which they call *Rabery* horses; they are had from the small island of Rathlin, which lies off the coast of Antrim, between that and Scotland, to the north east of the Giant's Causeway, and nearly opposite Ballycastle; for the more particular and very interesting survey of this island, its natural history,

history, and the manners and customs of its inhabitants, I refer my reader to the late Dr. Hamilton's very scientific and elegant survey of the coast of Antrim, where it is particularly described. I shall only remark, that this breed of horses, which are extremely cheap, seldom exceeding three guineas in price, are most durable and serviceable, well calculated for a hilly country, and live to a great age.

Asses are also very numerous here; frequently an hundred of these animals may be counted, in the busy seasons, within the circuit of a mile or two; they are found extremely serviceable, and are very easily fed; they are particularly fond of the tops of furze and green whins, which also contribute much to the maintenance of the Rahery horses. They set the grazing of these lands, in denominations, termed fums. Forty shillings per annum are paid for the grafs of a full sum, which a three year old heifer is deemed equal to; a two year old and a yearling calf are termed a split sum, for their grafs is charged something more than a full sum, about two pounds five shillings and six pence; they appreciate to a nicety all kinds of stock, to the proportional value of the grafs, still under the denomination of a sum; six sheep and their lambs constitute a sum, or eight sheep without lambs; three yearling calves make also the like denomination, and a horse is rated at a sum and an half; thus, it is not according to the kind of stock the agreement is made for, or the grazing lands advertized, but according to the sum. On the estate of
Lord

Lord Clonmell, near Smithsborough village, is a famous beef field, which is known by that name; it contains eleven acres, and annually feeds from twelve to fifteen head of cattle, to five cwt. on an average, per head. On the mountain farms, a three year old heifer will be grazed for sixteen shillings and three pence; a two year old thirteen shillings and ten pence, and a yearling for eight shillings; and these rates encrease proportionably as we approach the best land, the price of which is already stated.

BURNET.

This grass, which has been so little known, deserves our attention; it yields a very rich herbage, so early as February, and is wholesome, and very greedily eaten by all kinds of cattle; it generally is sown in August, and ought to be drilled in; the drills should be about two and an half or three feet asunder; the spot, which is let to stand for seed, will have little nutriment, and must remain above a year in the ground before it is cut; it is also sowed with barley, at the rate of about twenty-four pounds to the acre.

After the barley is cut, the burnet begins to thrive admirably, and in the following spring yields an early and excellent vegetation for sheep; when eaten down, the field may be shut up for meadow; the hay is very good, but the produce is not abundant. The flavour this gives the milk is uncommonly fine, and the cows eat it greedily;

greedily; it is extremely hardy, as no severity of weather will injure it in winter; sheep are also fond of it, and it agrees extremely well with them; horses do not, in general, like it, yet thrive on it. The surest and the least expensive method is, to lay down cow pastures with this feed, and a corn crop.

It has also been used for deer with great success, and it will best thrive on an upland soil, that is warm and made friable.

SECT. 3. *Farms.*

I Have stated the average size of farms to be about eight acres; farm houses are rather better than in general through the county. Leases of late date are seldom more than twenty-one years, and the older tenures are for three lives or thirty-one years. Fences are much better attended to, tolerably well quicked; many of them are well planted with fallows, which are turned to very useful purposes of country work. Fields are from one and an half to three acres, most usually; one working horse, proportioned to ten acres, may be the general average through the county. Much ground is lost in their drains, being often six feet wide, and they appear like sunk fences; some have small covered drains filled with stones, but this material branch of husbandry is too little practised. Marle is the principal manure used for cold clay grounds, but lime would shew a more rapid

rapid effect, which is not very easily attained, and very distant from the hilly lands, which it soon fertilizes. Dung is the choicest manure for potatoes, but they first spread the mud of the bog on the ridge, which they cover with dung, and lay the potatoe on this bed, covered with clay mixed with ashes; this compost gives a great return, particularly in the second crop, when it is well incorporated; they seldom top-dress their meadows with any manure but ashes, which insure a heavy crop of hay. A greater quantity of barley is produced than they have consumption for in this county; the remainder generally goes to Newry. The potatoe land sets, on an average, for six guineas per acre.

Flax land six guineas.

An acre of meadow from four to seven guineas.

Rent of a cabin and one rood of land, fifty shillings per annum.

Average rent of small farms through the barony, one pound fourteen shillings and three halfpence per acre.

MARLE.

Avoid marle of clayey substance, this will never become friable, except with hot lime, until it is calcined; but when spread on land, it becomes tough and heavy, and certainly is of more injury than service.

Lime, hot from the kiln, will pulverize marle, but this compost requires to be left out for some time before it is spread on the land, if the soil is shallow or warm;
a great

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a great advantage in marle, as a manure, is its durable and lasting virtue, as it holds good on most soils from twenty to thirty years, when the best dung seldom holds longer than three years ; if the expence is great at first, it is a saving in a tenfold degree ultimately, but in this country, marle is abundant, and could be put out at a moderate cost ; by burning marle, it acquires a much greater and more powerful effect, but it will not be as durable as if put on in the raw state.

Marling old sheep walks prepares the ground for a fine course of corn crops, and if about an hundred loads, to the acre, of the rich soapy marle, be spread on the surface, and ploughed in, it ensures an excellent crop of wheat ; after which, should follow a green crop ; and by observing this method, of introducing a green crop always, between two corn crops, the ground would never be exhausted.

SECT. 4. *General Subjects.*

GREAT as is the population of this county, yet in this barony it is encreased in an extraordinary proportion ; the town of Monaghan contributes largely to the numbers, but the excellence of the land, and the contiguity of the market, render it a very desirable situation both for small farmers and manufacturers, in which occupation the inhabitants are jointly engaged. The town is remarkably neat, but is rather whimsically built,
branching

branching triangularly from the centre. The streets are rather narrow, but kept very clean; the roads through them were formerly paved, and in wretched order, but the pavement has been taken up, and an excellent hard gravel and pounded stone substituted, which is kept in very good order, and a paved footway, properly elevated and bordered with flagging, is both useful and ornamental. A handsome square, which has the court house in the principal front, with a new town clock, commands one entrance, and here the linen market is held on Mondays, and in the purchase of linen cloth alone, in grey webs, seldom less than from three to four thousand pounds; weekly, is expended. Another square, called the Diamond, fronts another entrance, where a very handsome and new market-house was built by the late General Conyngham, whose arms are elegantly emblazoned over the entrance. The church is old, but spacious, and the steeple has for its base a lofty tower, built in an irregular pentagon; the spire preserves the like figure, and is slated to the top. The shambles are a new slated building rather apart from the town, in an excellent situation, and form three sides of a square. The county infirmary is on an elevated and airy situation, and well attended to by the visitors. A very elegant and new horse barracks have been erected lately, but the situation is low, and not commanding. The beech trees here are uncommonly large, and fine timber, and the terrace adjoins, which is laid out in gravel walks and fruit walls, in the old style, and has two approaches

proaches on either end of the town, from which the meadow land is divided by a lake. This town is on the estate of Lord Clermont, who is lord of the soil on one side, and the other is on the estate of Lord Templeton. All the land, immediately adjoining Monaghan, is set by the English statute acre, at the rate of five guineas per Irish acre. Hay is always very dear, but they have a good market for oats and potatoes; the latter have hitherto averaged two pence per stone, the former ten shillings per barrel; this was the rate for nine years back from 1799; a good deal of butter is sold in this market, where, and in Clones also, coopers regularly attend the commissioners, who buy for the Newry merchants. The small farms, which belong to the gentry in these environs, are conspicuously neat, and the hedge rows dressed and splashed very well, with no inconsiderable quantity of old timber. Some little wheat is cultivated, but not for market; I suppose the whole county has seldom one hundred acres of wheat to produce in a season. Fuel is cheap, and is sold by bulk, but about equal to six pence per statute kish, when brought home and clamped. A considerable quantity of barley is sown around the town, the soil being particularly nice and well adapted for it. Near the town, on the northern side, is the vestige of the old fort or mound of earth, which was erected by Sir Edward Blaney; a few deal trees surround it, and it is the same which was spoken of by Sir John Davis, in his Historical tracts of this county. This town is well protect-

ed,

ed, having, besides the cavalry, two companies of infantry; nor are the poor unbefriended, for, an assembly is held every fortnight, for which there are annual subscriptions, and the profits are attributed to their support.

The environs of this town are very neatly built; the slovenly custom of making large dunghills in the fronts of their houses is very offensive, which are otherwise pretty and engaging; for this nuisance there is no excuse, as they have all a great ere and good garden, and this ill suits with the cleanliness and engaging appearance of this neighbourhood in every other respect. The clothing of the men are excellent frizes, had from Galway and Kilkenny. Some few woollen weavers are in this district, and make a little coarse cloth, but it is never exposed to sale. The women have mostly cotton dresses, which are sent from Dublin, and all wear shoes and stockings; the price of labour is generally one shilling per day, without diet, or five pounds per annum with diet. At Monaghan, is a diocesan school, which has been lately built; this has not as yet been well established, it is only now reclaiming from a long and shameful neglect. Lord Rossmore took great pains to establish a school in this town, and a large bequest, nearly seven thousand pounds, was left about thirty years ago, by Francis Ellis, Esq. as a fund, the interest of which should be applied for the benefit of the town, and the poor of the parish; but the will was set aside,

afide, and the benevolent intention of the testator was frustrated.

There is not a bolting mill in this barony, but an excellent site at Milltown, where two oatmeal mills are worked; several small grist mills are scattered through the country, as at Scotstown, Ballinoude, Watts Bridge, Ballinacarty, and Drummond; there is not a bleach mill in this barony, nor in Trough or Farney, but there is one at Templelate near Smithsborough, and one near Clones, both in the barony of Dartrey; but the principal mills are at Creive, in the barony of Cremourne, already spoken of; so few tuck mills are seen through the county, as shew that the woollen manufacture is very inconsiderable; these only dress the cloth for hire. The principal plantations are at Ballileck, Brandrum, Rossmore Park, Mount-Louise, Slacks-Grove, Gola, Bessmount, and Poplar Vale; these demesnes have all a considerable quantity of both old and young timber, and, with the other woods of the county, furnish a sufficiency for home use for all kinds of country work. No timber here is rated by measurement, except sycamore, which sell according to the size of the tree, for from five to ten shillings per foot, this being particularly valuable for the shaft in the bleach mills, around which, the webs are rolled and beetled; as the grain is so fine and kind, it never splinters; when other timber is used for this shaft, they are obliged to case them with horse skins, and they will not even so hold long. Some sycamore shafts will sell from eight to ten guineas, if ten and an half feet long

long, and eighteen inches in diameter; all other timber is rated by the tree, and generally are purchased by people in this trade, who cut and retail it at less than a third advance price. A tree, which might make a pair of car sides, is purchased in the wood for 2*s.* 8½*d.*; this, when cut and carried home, rates at 3*s.* 6*d.*; a pair of principals 4*s.* 4*d.*; ribs per dozen 4*s.* 4*d.*; watling per hundred 2*s.* 2*d.* Thus we easily find the cost of timber for a cabin twenty-six feet by fifteen.

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
To three pair of balk, ready pegged,	13	0
To two dozen of ribs, -	8	8
To one and a half dozen of watling,	3	3
To a whole deal for the door, -	3	0
To a board for fashes, -	2	2
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	£.1	10 1
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Looms are made of oak, ash, or deal, and although one of hard timber will not be made in less than double the time of deal, yet the price of workmanship is the same, being but 14*s.* Oak is valued at half the price of foreign timber: a loom, when finished, will cost 3*l.*, and there is scarce a house without one. The people here are all industrious; the journeyman hires for 1*s.* per day with, or 1*s.* 8*d.* without diet: the women earn from 4*d.* to 6*d.* per day; even children will spin from
ten

ten to twelve cuts of yarn. Some children are so expert at winding, they save to their parents what would cost 10*d.* per day, were it to be hired out, and many weavers pay children 11*s.* 4½*d.* per quarter, with their diet, for their labour. The linen being raised from the flax-seed by the same manufacturer, in his own family, he depends upon no man for assistance, and this makes the trade particularly favourable, and so willingly engaged in.

Potatoes are the principal food for the winter half-year, and their wealth enables them to indulge more in flesh meat, than in other parts of the county: in spring, they use oatmeal and potatoes, and, in summer and autumn, the latter, with a considerable quantity of milk, butter, and vegetables; this wholesome diet is very conspicuous in their appearance at this time, as they are always more healthy, and free from those cutaneous eruptions, which are the effects of the more heating diet of oatmeal. Barley food is very weak and poor, too soon digested, and the peasants, when they are obliged to resort to this diet, can never work well, or appear in good health. Excellent strong beer is made at two breweries in Monaghan, which supply the country around for a considerable distance, and is in great demand; this wholesome beverage ought to be particularly encouraged, and is a most excellent substitute for spirits, which are now entirely out of the reach of the peasantry, and which have evidently retarded their improvement, and consumed their wealth and strength, for ages past.

paft. The malt is made at home in the county of Monaghan, and the redundancy generally goes to Newry.

Taking a general survey of the crops of this diftrict, we find that wheat is cultivated in a greater proportion than elfewhere; about eighteen ftone are fowed to the acre, and will average in produce eight barrels of twenty ftone. Armagh, which is near twenty miles diftant from moft parts where this grain is cultivated, is their market for it. The land will yield of oats fourteen barrels of ourteen ftone, from twenty-eight ftone of feed; barley nine barrels of sixteen ftone, from one barrel of feed; and potatoes feventy barrels of twenty-eight ftone eight pounds, alfo from one barrel of feed. The average price of oatmeal has been 10s. per cwt.; but notwithstanding thefe crops have fo good a return, yet the corn will by no means be equal in quality to the grain raifed in the county of Louth, which, in Dundalk market, rates from one penny to two-pence per ftone higher than that from Monaghan; and even Louth feed, when fowed here, will degenerate in quality, though it will average in quantity to a greater produce, than if cultivated at home.

The roads throughout are excellent, and prove one of the bleffings to a country of a refident gentry, which this barony particularly enjoys.

The method of collecting cefs in this county wants amendment very particularly. When civilization was firft introduced, and taxes eftablifhed, each town-land was

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was valued, which original valuation still holds good, and, when a cess is laid on, at so much on the county at large, or the barony, then that proportion is known, which each town-land is to pay, according to the poundage, which applotters ascertain on oath from the old rates; but that is quite incorrect, inasmuch as some lands have been reclaimed, that bear no proportion at all. The Slieve-Baught mountains, on this side, or the twenty-nine bars, pay but 40*l.* annually, which is unreasonably small, to the proportion some other lands pay, which are not better ground.

The tithes are generally valued every year, but a modus exists, of taking a lease from the tithe proctor, of all dues, large and small, except marriages, but this is always per agreement. The modus of sixpence for any quantity of flax, and the like for hay, is not demanded, though it is the incumbent's right, who also claims the following small dues.

				<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
For a mill, annually,	-	-	-	6	8
A milch cow,	-	-	-	0	4
A sheep	-	-	-	0	1
A foal,	-	-	-	0	6
A calf,	-	-	-	0	3
Family money,	-	-	-	1	2
A christening,	-	-	-	1	6
A burial,	-	-	-	1	6
From each tradesman,	-	-	-	1	0
Marriages by licence,	-	-	-	6	8
Do. by proclaiming the bans in church,				3	4

The following is the form of the agreement between the land-holder and the tithe-proctor, which is binding on both sides:

I, *A. B.* (landholder) promise to pay to *C. D.* (tithe-farmer) the sum of _____ for all my tithes and dues for (so many years), provided he holds his right so long, and I hold my land.

In this case no small dues are exacted or demanded, but for marriages, and the land-holder may then break up as many grafs acres as he choofes; and pays no more than the sum agreed for.

This can be absolutely binding for a given time; within seven years, provided the incumbent holds the benefice so long, notwithstanding the death or removal of the tithe farmer, as his successor is bound to fulfil his contract by the custom of the country.

The village of Smithsborough has but a mean appearance, the cabins being all thatched, and falling to ruin; in consequence of the property being disputed at law; it stands midway between Monaghan and Clones, and was founded by a Mr. Smyth, now deceased, who established monthly fairs for cattle, which were spiritedly and well attended to. Near this village runs the fine line for a navigation to Lough Erne, and would extend to within one mile of Clones, which I have already spoken of.

Ballynoud is four and an half miles north-west of Monaghan; the cabins are but mean, but it has a neat church

church and steeple, and a good bridge over the river, which divides the village.

Kilmore church stands about two miles nearer Monaghan, and is particularly conspicuous for a neat and elegant spire.

The demesnes of Ballileck, Brandrum, and Rossmore Park all join, and their fine plantations, beautiful hills, and rich grassy lands, are highly ornamental. The neat though small demesnes of Bessmount, Rosefield, Poplar Vale, and several others, shew the environs of the town of Monaghan in a high state of improvement.

The land from Monaghan to Clones is excellent, and a limestone, dry, tilly soil, principally appropriated to tillage.

At Mount Louisa the land is high, and in sinking a pump, when at about seventy feet depth, there appeared some indication of coal, and various strata of clays; one of these was in colour a deep black, and fourteen feet thick, without any stones, and of a soft puttyish quality; when exposed to the air, it broke in angular points, and grew hard, and would then take a fine polish. Under this was a gravelly and thin argillaceous stratum, but, after having sunk to the depth of 120 feet, and no water being found, the project was abandoned. This demesne was formerly extremely well wooded, and had fine timber; it is now carefully replanting. Some very capital improvements in draining bog have been made here, which now yields excellent meadow, and Mr. Erritt has had great success in experimental farming,

which he is extensively engaged in. A spacious lake, that abounds with fine fish, ornaments the demesne, and the banks will soon be covered with very beautiful plantation. The shrubbery has some excellent old timber, remarkable for wide spreading branches, which is not confined to any particular kind of tree, but from the nature of the soil, they have all this inclination. Near Mount Louise is the most beautiful lake I have seen in this county, without any plantation to adorn it, but the situation of the ground, which rises high over it, renders this extensive sheet of water truly pleasing and picturesque; it is the property of Mr. Whiteside.

The house of Rossmore Park stands on a rising ground, the prospect from which is very fine, but the mansion itself has little to recommend it. The fine vein of ground, I have had occasion to speak of more than once, terminates almost at the entrance of this demesne, which rather approaches to that sterile soil, that stretches off into Cremorne barony; but yet a considerable part of this demesne is very kind land, and highly improveable. A long and circuitous cut for irrigation is already made, above a mile in length, winding round the side of a hill, and capable of fertilizing a great extent of valley, which is naturally sandy, and a shallow arid soil.

When the young plantations get up, which are thickly scattered, and in a promising state, the appearance of wood will be very great.

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If art and industry had been applied with as much earnestness, as nature has been lavish and munificent to Rossmore Park, it would be little inferior to most modern demesnes. The romantic glen, and rocky cascade, which is beautifully swelled after rain, and all the interesting scenery within, together with the prospect of a fine and highly improved country, render this seat a most desirable residence, and the disposition and irregularity of the surface are conspicuously favourable to ornamental improvements.

The parish of Monaghan, besides the lakes adjoining the town, has also one large and four lesser lakes, a sufficient proportion of bog, the town and demesne of Castle-shane, all the improvements around the town of Monaghan, Rossmore Park, Corlat and Derry demesnes; a branch of that stream, which runs through Tidavnet and Teholland parishes intersects the eastern part of this: it has the glebe at Mallinally bridge, and the chalybeate well of Tubberdoany; the medicinal virtues of this water are not known.

That part of Tullycorbet parish, in this barony, has two very great lakes, whose waters unite, also, with those adjoining the town of Ballibay. The bog is extensive towards the east, and there are some tracts to the north; it has also seven smaller lakes, the glebe of Terrygeelce, part of the town of Ballibay, and Rose-mill, as also that at Cusaboy.

That part of Teholland parish, in the barony of Monaghan, has only some very small lakes, and a tract of bog

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to the eastward; it is divided by that stream, which passes through Tidavnet parish; it has the village of Knockbuy, and the demesne of Bessmount, also the glebe at Tullygarvy.

That part of Clones parish, which is in Monaghan, has an extensive lake, near Watt's Bridge, and five smaller lakes, whose waters all connect, and run into Dartrey barony towards Newbliss, and hath but two small tracts of bog. The village of Smithsborough is in this district, and also the glebe of Derrylusk.

Drumafnet parish has two extensive lakes, and six lesser ones; on the western side is a great tract of bog, and also to the south. The town-lands of Coovalty and Cavavalla are in Clones parish, but insulated in this; it has also the mill of Balnacanty, and the demesnes of Thorn-Hill, Agnamalla, and Brook-Vale.

Kilmore parish has twenty-one lakes; all on the northern side are connected; the most extensive is that in the glebe of Kilmore. The central part is best supplied with bog: the demesnes of Ballyleck, Brandrum, and Rockville are in this parish, also the glebe at Kilmore, and Jackson's mill.

Tidavnet parish has nineteen lakes; those only considerable at Mount Louise and Slack's Grove: a very great tract of bog verges on the north-east; the remainder of the parish is sufficiently supplied. Here are the demesnes of Mount Louise, Clannamully, Slack's Grove, Killater, Poplar-Vale, and New-Grove. A rapid river runs from the Slieve-Baught mountains, which divides

divides this county from Fermanagh county, runs to the eastward, and rounds the entire northern part of Teholland parish, to the eastern side of it, which divides it from Cremorne barony.

The glebe is at Killymarra, and this parish has also the villages of Scottstown and Tidaynet.

In the parish of Clones, and in this barony, is a well, much celebrated among the peasants, for its virtue in curing the jaundice; it is called Grana-buy-more, which signifies, the great yellow cure.

When the peasants have this disorder, they go to this well fasting, in the morning, and drink the water, until it has the effect of an emetic, which they endeavour to provoke by all means, and, after having sickened their stomachs, will of course follow; they then strip off their shirts or shifts, which they soak very well in this water, and put them on again in that wet state; next, take a bumper of spirits, and walk as far as they are able, until they get into a profuse perspiration, and, after three days successively practising this violent remedy, the cure is completed.

They then hang a rag on the alder tree, which stands over the well, as a grateful offering to the saint who presides over it, and, I suppose, above ten thousand rags are suspended from its branches. Miraculous as they conceive this cure to be, it appears a greater miracle, that the effectual remedy for all human infirmities is not wrought by the death of the patient: but, let the gentlemen of the faculty investigate the cause, certain it is,
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that many are cured by this extraordinary operation. This well is situated at the foot of a great bank of morass, from which constantly issues a mineral scum of various colours, but the soil more inclines to yellow : it is called the yellow mud. A rapid stream runs close by this well, from a directly opposite course, to the face of the hill, the bottom of which is a limestone rock, and this stream even flows into the well ; but the waters are reverberated from the bank, and go down with the stream, so that it would appear, as if any virtue it might possess was carried off, and mixed with the stream. Some experiments were tried on this water, but it did not appear to differ, in any respect, from the water running by it, only, when the stream is very low, it has the taste of softer water.

Having now concluded the baronial survey, I shall give a minute detail of the entire process of the linen manufacture, from the saving of the flax to the finishing of the web, as it may be acceptable to my readers. I shall add such remarks, as I was favoured with, on its various processes.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER XII.

Sketch of the Linen Manufacture, from the importation of the Flax seed, until the sale of the Linen in a home or foreign market.

The flax seed imported into Ireland, is computed to average forty thousand hogsheads, the greater quantity of which is had from America, and some from the Baltic, and from Holland; the latter is considered the best for wet and heavy grounds; the American seed excels for light smart ground; but the Dutch seed is far more prolific in its proper soil than the other, nearly one third greater produce, and is rated in its price full a third dearer; each hogsheaf contains about seven bushels of our measure, and varies much in price, according to the quantity imported. Five pounds, sterling, per hogsheaf, may be a fair average price; it is often times short of that rate, and often exceeds it; that is about fourteen shillings and three pence half-penny per bushel; four bushels of seed are sown to the acre, which amount to two pounds seventeen and two pence; the value of the ground about four pounds, and of the labour one pound. In this country it always occupies

cupies the ground, which was cropped with potatoes the preceding year, and is sowed from the fifteenth of April to the fifteenth of May; the ground is not turned, except when trampled, or the soil wet; it is then lightly pointed, and the seed sown, and harrowed very fine, all the stones and weeds being picked clear off it, and constantly weeded, until it is fit for pulling. The produce of this acre is generally from fifty to eighty stone of rough flax, fit for the hackle, and is worth, before it is pulled, from ten to twenty-five pounds per acre, the average may be sixteen pounds. The flax is fit for pulling about the beginning of August: if it is intended to make fine linen, it ought to be pulled when the blue blossom is on the stalk, if for a coarse quality or for seed saving, it must be left till the blossom is quite off, and the head is full; it always gives a heavier crop when pulled green than when pulled for seed; one bushel of seed sowed, gives eight bushels of seed saved, together with the flax, so that the seed may be previously saved in the branches before steeping; this deserves attention, if it is agreed that it is our advantage to save our own seed, which is very much disputed, and I have heard it warmly supported, that it would be more to our interest to import the seed, and give our commodities in exchange for it. The Dublin Society had once thought otherwise, (as I hope they continue to do) and gave premiums many years ago, for the saving of flax-seed, and of hoving it. Some of the seed so saved is yet in this country, and considered better than any imported,

ed, because it is not adulterated, which most frequently is the case with imported seed, being mixed either in the foreign country, or at home before it is exposed for sale, with the old seed, which has lain over since the preceding year. In good weather flax-seed is very easily saved, but very difficult in a rainy season, and cannot be well saved without cloths; the branches are spread on the ground till they grow yellow by being exposed to the weather; the heads are kept in this state until the next season for sowing, when they are threshed and the seed winnowed and cleaned; they frequently shell the seed from the head by running it through a common corn mill, when the stones are set for shelling grist, but the former method is esteemed the best. When the Dublin Society offered premiums for the saving of flax-seed, they restricted the stacking of it before threshing, which now appears to be a very obvious mistake, for excellent seed is saved after this manner; the only difference is, the flax must be left to stand a little longer than usual after flowering, till the head grows yellow; in this case the flax will answer every purpose, as if it was pulled earlier in the usual time, but the thread will not draw quite so fine. The soil of the county of Fermanagh is preferable to Monaghan for rearing flax; there, twenty-five stones of clean scutched, unhackled flax, are saved frequently from the bushel of seed, including tow, &c. but sixteen or eighteen is the average of Monaghan, and twenty at least of Fermanagh.

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The fineness or coarseness of the flax depends as much on the soil as it does on the kind of seed imported, and is to be considered as well as the difference in produce. A light gravelly or sandy soil will produce very fine flax, but the crop will be very light. The heavy crop, which will not draw so fine thread, but of a better quality, is always had in deep, moist, clayey soil; light loams are very favourable to flax, both for quality and quantity, the latter not in the same degree as clay. Any compost, that produces weeds (as fermenting dressings) is prejudicial to flax; for this reason potatoe ground is chosen; if lime or marle has been the last manure on the clay soil, it is so much the better, and they will not vegetate weeds, which are extremely destructive to flax, and also considerably increase the expence.

In those parts of Holland, where they raise so much flax and save so much seed, their soil is a deep stiff clay, and their seed, therefore, is considered superior by a third in value, and it will give the like proportion greater crop than any from America or Riga.

It is universally allowed, that the ground cannot be too well tilled for flax, for which reason it is never the first crop taken from the lay; in Holland it seldom is earlier than the fourth, and madder always precedes it, which takes so many ploughings and earthings, as it lies two years in the ground. It must be observed it is not for any nutritious substance, which the madder plant leaves in the ground, that it is chosen to precede flax; quite the reverse, as it is very exhausting; the reason is,
because

because the ground gets such frequent tillings, in its cultivation, that it becomes very fine and proper for a flax crop.

In the Low countries, where the soil cannot yield madder, being too light, they give many successive ploughings, and always a fallowing before they sow their flax seed. The choice of the seed is now a particular consideration; the full short plump seed is the best, and most oily, but it is a material matter to change the seed, for allowing you have the best seed, and the best soil, yet by constant sowings it will greatly degenerate. The seed to be sown on deep clay soils, should have been saved from lighter grounds, and that for light soils should be saved from deeper clays; we have evident proof of the seed, raised in our own country, yielding crops in every respect equal to the best imported seed, and we have all that variety of soil, which is necessary in the constant change to preserve from degeneration; this ought to be a very strong and leading argument in favour of rearing our own seed, and as we import our seed from countries, where the linen manufacture is considerably engaged in, we ought to recollect, that they will necessarily keep the best seed for their own use, and give us the worst. We are now at issue with all the world, in the linen trade, and the envy of every other country in this our staple commodity. If then we can rear our own flax, why should we stand the precarious chance of a supply from a foreign market, or annually expose the main support of the nation to the hazard of the

the seas? I have already observed, that the seed is sowed from the middle of April to the middle of May, which is not pulled till August; this appears quite too late, for if the seed was sowed in March, it might be ripe by the latter end of June, or early in July, and would have the advantage of the warm dry weather that intervenes, particularly in the latter month, which is so necessary for flax; for in a very wet summer it is injured, and our climate is too apt to be rainy in July, which is the month of all others it would require to be dry, for this branch of husbandry; and one great advantage the flax farmer would have in pulling early, is, that in the small plot of ground, which his flax occupied, he might sow a crop of turnips, which is such a wholesome and excellent vegetable, and with care would hold during the winter and spring. If the farmer wishes to lay down with flax, he may introduce artificial grasses a few days after sowing the seed; clover is known particularly well to agree with it, but it must be always fresh harrowed, and would be the better to be rolled too; it is necessary to take great care to sow it very evenly, and I have already mentioned, that a bushel is the usual quantity allowed to a quarter of an acre. The pulling is the next process, and on this depends the great matter of dispute, and is of so great importance to the linen trade, as by pulling early, when the flax is blue, we do not save any seed, which is only done by letting it stand until it yellows.

It is asserted, that fine flax only can be had from early pulling, which even granting true for a moment, the
aburdity

absurdity of this practice is shewn in this county, as they manufacture fine linens ; of course they cannot want fine flax, and certainly they throw away at least ten pounds worth of seed for every acre of flax, which is pulled when in blossom, and evidently a considerable quantity of the flax itself is lost, as not having arrived at perfection, it becomes weak in the dressing, and breaks, thus cast for tow, and what they have is by no means arrived at that perfection it would have had, was it left to remain to ripen. Every thing in nature requires maturity, it holds good in the vegetable as well as in the animal system ; the only thing, that can be said for pulling it green, is that it splits with less labour, but in the Low countries, where the finest flax is raised, where it is manufactured into the nicest laces, they never pull until the seed is ripe ; from this we may most certainly pronounce, that it is a great mistake to suppose green flax gives the finer thread ; it is only a lazy argument, that would countenance it, less labour being required in the splitting of it than if it had attained its proper strength. After pulling, it is bound in bunches large enough to answer the girth of the flax, or as much as can be tied up with its own stalk, as corn is bound ; this is deposited in a bog-hole, or a pool of stagnant water, as encouraging putrefaction, and remains there from five to twelve days, or just so long as the ligneous particles, which lie with the stalk, become rotten. The outer filament, being the flax, then separates from it, but this mode of steeping in bog holes certainly injures the colour of the flax. It requires

quires particular nicety to ascertain when it is sufficiently steeped, and after four days, must be carefully examined every day; if let to lie too long, the flax will be rotted and good for nothing; it would be therefore wise to lean to the other extreme. The reader will conceive, that steeping immediately after pulling is the more common though mistaken practice of this country, and only becomes the second operation, when pulled green, and the seed not intended to be saved: but when otherwise, which is too seldom the case, it is ripped previous to steeping, that is, by drawing the heads through an iron comb, which pulls off the little balls, that contain the seed, which is laid by carefully for the next season, and then the flax is watered as already described. Care must be taken in steeping, that the flax be well covered with the water, and if it can be buried in the mud, some esteem it the better; but I must observe, that this is considered to hurt the colour. A running stream is generally clear, yet it has its disadvantage, as the flax is very liable to be damaged by tangling, with the motion of the water, so that the water, which is clearest, and most still, but soft, is certainly the freest from all inconveniencies. Bog water is esteemed, by some, as preferable, as hastening the putrefaction, which is evidently a great mistake, as its astringent quality is directly opposite to putrescence, and must certainly retard the process; if places were dug out for ponds, and filled early in the summer, the water would soon become soft and mollified by the influence of the sun and

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warm air, and would quickly ferment with the juice of the plant, that is immerfed in it. Too great pains cannot be taken in this refpect, and in the choice and afpect of refervoirs; thefe waters are of more confequence to the flax drefler than many are aware of, and the fuccefs of the manufacture very materially depends on this particular. When flax is fteeping, it muft be kept down with a weight, as timber, clay, &c. but ftones are not to be ufed, as being apt to cut the ftalk; the ponds or refervoirs, that are ufed particularly for this purpofe, foon get a confiderable quantity of the dirt from the flax, which putrefies, and if the newly deposited flax is covered with this, it affifts the fermentation, and it is even faid, that yarn will have a darker colour after it, yet it will fooner become white on the bleach, which procefs is naturally affifted by the flax having been covered with the flime when fteeping.

The exact time the flax fhould lie in water is uncertain, and depends much on the quality of the water, and alfo of the flax: in four days, the defired effect is performed, and it fometimes will require fifteen or fixteen. When once the pith eafily feparates from the bark, it ought to be immediately taken up, as it will receive injury as long after as it fhall remain in the water; if it does not all work out eafily, the attendant ought not to be difcouraged, nor run the chance of over-fleeping it; the fame effects, that are had by watering, will be continued in a great meafure by grafing, which is the next procefs, that is, the fpredding of the flax in

thin layers on the grass, the bundle being previously opened; it generally takes about fourteen days in this stage, but it depends much on the fineness of the weather, as the hotter the sun, the quicker and better is the process. The flax must be turned every second day, and the shortest grass or warm sand banks are the fittest situations to be chosen for this purpose. The putrefaction of the flax causes a very fetid stench, and the whole country being engaged in it at one time, we might expect that distempers might prevail, which is not the case, as is found from experience; the great quantities of vegetables, such as beans, early potatoes, &c. which at that time come in, and are the general food, may correct its unwholesome effects, if so they can be termed. That particular customs and general pursuits of a country have an influence on the atmosphere, and more or less render it prejudicial to health, is very certain, and is proved particularly at the time the people are engaged in burning their land. As ashes are the general manure here, in the spring, when they burn previous to potatoe sowing, the air is certainly tainted with its pernicious effects, and this is always the most unwholesome season in the year.

It is again a very nice matter to know, how long the flax should be left in this state, and it must be constantly tried by breaking the stalk, and seeing how the timber separates from the flax; to leave it on the grass too long, will be as prejudicial as too short a time; the former makes it rotten and difficult to manner into flax,

flax; the latter will also have the same effect, and also another disadvantage, that it cannot be drawn fine in the wheel, but will work halkey and coarse. The usual time for grassing is three weeks; after having been sufficiently spread, they again tie it up in small parcels with hay ropes, and set it up in stooks again for a few hours, exposed to a hot drying sun, to air that part which lay last on the ground, and to draw the moisture from it; a particular care ought to be had in making these bundles, to parcel out the various kinds together, as the long and short, the coarse and fine, &c.; this will save much labour. It now becomes necessary to give the flax the more quick and searching heat from fire; formerly, it was dried in ovens, which were heated moderately, and the flax left so for about twelve hours. The degree of heat requisite was ascertained by a man standing in it without inconvenience or uneasiness, but at the same time possessing a warm glow. Here, with every poor farmer, an oven would be too expensive; they dry upon what they term a skey, which is a hurdle of wicker work, placed or raised about five feet from the ground, and always is apart from the house, to guard against accidental fire, &c. After this mode, the process is much quicker, as they kindle a tolerably strong fire under the skey, on which the flax remains only about an hour or two, until the bark, which is the flax, is separated from the inner substance, which I have before called the timber, and is now decayed since it has been steeped. This is the

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part, which particularly requires the heat, as, having been previously in a putrified state, it now becomes brittle, so that it shall readily fall to pieces, when it comes under the operation of the pounder; but previous to this, as in the preceding stages, a nicety is necessary to be observed, which is too little attended to; for the sheaves of flax, which are indiscriminately piled together on the skey, cannot get an equal degree of heat; that part lying next the skey must be scorched, before the topmost sheaves receive any heat at all, and the flax must be certainly injured in colour by the smoke. An oven, therefore, must have the preference, but those, who cannot go to that expence, ought to be very careful to turn their sheaves frequently, and by using charred turf for their fire, the disadvantage from smoke would be remedied, which is done by striking it with a common beetle on a level surface or floor; but this is very injurious, it should be by using a simple machine, which is called the breaker, and consists of two pieces of timber, jointed into one another, like locking or clasping the fingers of two hands together; it should be broken immediately after drying, as it works more crisp and free whilst warm.

Pounding the flax is, evidently, very hurtful, as the blow comes across the grain, and must often cut it, which, when it comes to the hackle, will, of course, fall into and waste a considerable quantity of the best part of the flax. This matter, inconsiderable as it may appear, yet does great injury; all errors in so important

tant a branch as our linen manufacture ought to be rectified, as throwing a burthen and expence on the trade, by which means it comes to market on depreciating terms; and if regulated better, could be afforded for less cost, which always insures the preference to any commodity.

If then, with the many disadvantages under which we labour, we enjoy so considerable a portion of this trade, and excel those nations, who take more pains and care in the like manufacture; how much more is it worth our while to leave no evil unredressed, which would certainly raise us to that pre-eminence, in which it would be folly for any power to try to rival us?

The flax is next scutched, which is done by women, who hold one end of the flax in one hand, over a flat board, set upon its end, affixed to a block of wood to steady it, and the edge, which is made like the blade of a knife, shelving and sharp, lies horizontal; on this, the flax is held, and beaten with a broad bladed wooden knife, having a long and heavy handle; the inner decayed ligneous substance thus falls out from the filaments, which remain and are the flax: after this process it is ready for market, and the gross contents are said to be the produce by weight. In scutching, the broad round scutch is better than the narrow one, which cuts the filaments; one person will break and scutch about twelve pounds of flax in one day, though in Holland they will work nearly twice as much; but mills are now erected for scutching flax, one of which will do
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more work than twelve women, and are worked either by horses or by water, and attended to by men and boys; the price of scutching is 1s. per stone.

It is now stored for use, and occasionally hackled or drawn through combs, or rakes, composed of slender iron pins, like wool-combers implements; the finest and longest flax is the prime part, the remainder is the backings or the tow, and the refuse of all is used for thatch for houses, for which it is most excellent and durable. The hackles require to be of various sizes and closeness, as to the different qualities of the flax, and its fineness; the flax should be drawn through these, several times, and with great care. The most experienced hands only attempt to work the finest hackle, which is very close, and a nice matter to perform well.

I have already ventured to disapprove of the method encouraged long ago by the Dublin Society, of stacking flax, in order to save the seed, and I am warranted in it by the opinions of many very well experienced farmers in this husbandry; for, by stacking the flax, that part, which is exposed to the weather, becomes of inferior quality to that preserved within, which would all be saved had it been housed; and, if the bales had been ripped after pulling, and laid by on a granary floor, they would certainly keep as well, as if they had not been separated from the stalk: but the great evil in stacking is, that the part, which is exposed, does not entirely rot, and will bear the work, but then the web is composed of flax of unequal quality, and, when one part will be found and good,

good, in other places it quickly goes to pieces in the wear, if not in the stress it receives in the bleaching. I have before stated the produce of an acre of flax to be from fifty to eighty stone, fit for the hackle of sixteen pounds to the stone, and this, when hackled, produces from seven to eight pounds, and it is, on an average, of the value of 8s. per stone; the average is found in this country much nearer fifty stone than in other parts, say fifty-three stone per acre, and this rough flax, at 8s. per stone, will produce 11l. 4s.; the price of seed deducted, 8l. 6s. 10d. is the remainder for his labour, and the price of the ground; the produce is often more, and sometimes less, and the price is certainly at a low valuation.

The flax being now scutched and hackled, it is made ready for the wheel, and generally spun to two-dozen yarn, reeled, &c. This process is so well known, it becomes needless to mention it; after which the yarn is steeped for ten or twelve hours, and washed clean, and boiled, ready for the loom, and woven. At this trade, the weaver, who is a journeyman, will earn from one to two shillings per day, and, at times, the employer will make double profit on the journeyman's work. When woven, it is always brought to market, and the web is there sold unbleached, and held open in folds, exposed to the buyers, who stand on benches in the open street, and the sellers pass on under them; a few folds of the linen are exposed for examination; it must previously have been measured, and well examined, and the contents be legibly stamped on the web by an officer,

officer, who is called the seal-master, because he affixes his seal; this officer gives good security to the Linen-Board before he gets his commission, and it behoves him to be extremely exact, and correct in his reports, as, should any fraud appear in his return, or the piece of cloth be not of the same quality throughout, and perfectly undamaged, both he and the weaver are liable to severe penalties, which are never remitted or passed over, the merchants being fully sensible, that the credit of the trade, and its consequence, can only be upheld by a strict attention to the excellent laws, which the Linen Board have provided, to meet every imposition relative to the manufacture. For the seal-master's trouble, he is entitled to two-pence from the seller, for every web he measures, and the owner of the house also receives a penny for every web paid for in his house, which is also deducted from the seller: these several sums produce a great revenue to these people, as perhaps, several hundred, nay, some thousand webs, may be purchased in a market in one day, and, when these two offices centre in one person, it becomes very lucrative indeed. As, on the faith of this seal, the piece is bought by the merchant, without previous measurement, it is very necessary to fine, and otherwise punish the offender severely, which offences are never passed over, and often amount to a heavy fine, besides forfeiture of the piece. From this fund the purchaser is reimbursed by the magistrate, who levies the fine, and the remainder goes to the Linen Board. If the fold, which is exposed to view,

is

is of better quality than the concealed part, the fraud being then intentional, the fine is considerably encreased. If the seller exposes a web for sale in the market, before the appointed hour, he is liable to be fined 20s.; the complainant gets the fine for his information. The various laws, that are established by the Linen Board, are very correct, and the wisdom of this Board, in providing against all emergencies and impositions, is exemplified in one of the laws, which says, that if the failure of a crop of flax is occasioned by bad seed, then the farmer shall recover his loss from the merchant who sold it, as it often happens, that they adulterate the new with the old seed on hands since the preceding year; this is known, by the flax throwing out black specks, that greatly injure it, and it requires much time to purge out these stains, and also great beating and rubbing, which evidently must reduce the strength of the flax. Lightning will produce the same effect, in some degree, as described, but the difference is known, by comparing the crop with others adjoining, which, if the black specks were occasioned by it, would be shewn likewise in other crops; if they do not appear so, then it is known to be produced from bad seed, and the farmer falls on the merchant for his loss. The linen markets of this county are first at Monaghan, which is held on Monday; here about 3000*l.* worth of webs are sold weekly, every market on an average, through the year, exclusive of the flax and yarn sold, which amounts to a considerable sum, and a great quantity of each of these articles

articles is exported; here is an unquestionable proof of the industry of the women and children.

In speaking of the markets of the county, I do not mean those, that are within its bounds, but those, which are constantly attended by the merchants of this county; in this instance is the town of Armagh, which market is held on Tuesday, and is considered the best in Ireland, for yard-wide linens of a coarse quality; value in the web from 16*d.* to 20*d.* per yard, and of very coarse, from 9½*d.* to 10½*d.* per yard; this market is estimated worth 5000*l.* weekly. Castleblaney market, in the county, is held on Wednesday; this may be worth 500*l.* per week. Clones market, within the county, is held on Thursdays, which is rated at 700*l.*

Cootehill market is held on Fridays, and the average value of yard-wide webs and sheetings, sold here, is rated at 4000*l.* weekly. This is the only market where sheetings are sold, which amount to a large sum, but the other cloths are sold to a greater amount in Monaghan; this town is in the county of Cavan, but it joins the barony of Dartrey in Monaghan, and is the best frequented-market in these two counties.

Ballibay, in this county, has its market held on Saturdays: the value of cloth purchased here is about 1,500*l.* weekly. In the neighbourhood of this town, a district, which is called the Cahills, is remarkable for producing a heavy crop of flax, equal to twenty-eight stone of scutched flax to the quarter of an acre, and from one bushel of seed sowed; this is an immense produce,

produce, but the quality is proportionably coarse. The webs being thus purchased green by the draper or bleacher, he writes his name on the web, and the price he purchased it at, checking it in his memorandum book, and the seller takes it to the merchant's pay-house, which I have already spoken of, where he receives his money, after the market is over. When they are brought home to the bleach-green, they are first numbered and marked, and put to steep in water for twelve or twenty-four hours, to soften the dressing, with which, I should have said, the weaver stiffens them; they are then washed as clean as possible, and put out to dry before they are boiled. The process of boiling with lye is continued for about a month in general, once in one week, and twice the next, so that in the month they get six boilings: the lye, in which they are boiled, is made from American pot-ash, or Spanish barilla; this is cleaned out every third or fourth boil, and is made in strength according to the state of the linens, which is ascertained by a skilful practitioner, by tasting the lye. In this stage the webs may be considered as half-bleached, and are now prepared for the muriatic acid, a chemical preparation, or distillation from vitriol and sea-salt, in which they are steeped, and then washed out, and put out on the grass for a day or two, and so continued, until the sprat, or outer bark of the lint, is all dissolved by the acid; the webs are next soured, and scalded, once, twice, or three times, until they are got to that degree of colour thought necessary, and, between every four and scald, they are rubbed

rubbed in the washing machine, with a strong lather of soap; for the first, and sometimes, second rubbing, they are boiled in the soap, which, at the last rubbing, is washed out. The webs are now considered bleached; they are blued, and only half dried, so as to take the beetles, which operation is performed by wrapping the web round a circular shaft placed horizontal, which turns slowly on its axis, and with a very rapid motion, a number of beetles (which are bars of beech timber, placed perpendicular, and worked by a cross-wheel inserted in them in a serpentine direction) are pounded and beaten, and this process is continued for nine or ten hours. It may be naturally supposed, that, with this violent dressing, though the webs receive a fine gloss, they are materially injured, and it is very true, that such is the case; the effect produced is to lay the nap, and conceal it from the eye, giving a beautiful finish to the piece; but this is by no means equal to the injury sustained, which the bleachers are very sensible of, and, in the linens they intend for *service*, and not for *sale*, they never beetle longer than an hour at most. In Holland they remedy this, by fining mills, through which the flax is put, and all excrescences are rubbed off, so that the flax is brought to the first degree of art, before it is spun, and they have consequently no occasion for beetles for the same purpose that we use them here; this goes to prove, that their method is superior to ours, and that their linens should be of more durable texture. After being beetled, the webs are aired or dried, so that they shall

shall not be liable to mildew, when they are again put on the shaft and beetled, to give them the finishing gloss, after which they are crisped, measured, sealed, lapped, and tied, then sorted into different lots, according to their quality, packed, and sent to market.

In this imperfect sketch of the process of bleaching, I shall endeavour to explain the uses of its various stages, which are divided into six operations. 1st. Steeping; 2d. Bucking and boiling; 3d. Watering and drying, alternately; 4th. Souring; 5th. Washing with soap, and water-blueing, &c.; 6th. Drying. Steeping is the first operation, so that the cloth shall discharge all the impurities it has received in the hands of the weaver, and the greasy dressing which he makes to stiffen it, and lay the sprat, or the nap, to make it look the better for sale. This purging is very necessary, because it clears the linen of all the matter, which would impede the action of the salts, and if such impurities were not well discharged, the cloth could never be brought to take but a partial and unequal colouring. The water for this purpose is blood warm; too great heat might fix and stagnate the impure matter, which it is designed to purge the linen of, and a lesser heat would be too tedious in dissolving it. In some hours this dressing is entirely dissolved, and a fermentation takes place, from the acidity it acquired, which is very evident from the bubbling which arises, the scum that appears on the surface, and the swelling of the liquor. The scum consists of those impure particles, which have been discharged from the cloth,

cloth, and during the fermentation they float on the surface, so that it is necessary to take out the web from the steep before the fermentation subsides, otherwise the scum would again fall down, and mix with the cloth; and another danger would ensue, for, when the sour or acetous fermentation subsides, another fermentation succeeds, which is the putrid one, and when this takes place, the cloth is damaged in colour, being made darker, and also becomes tender, greatly reducing the strength of the texture. The greatest care must be had to avoid this danger. The consequence of steeping now is shewn, that, by this means, all dirt and impurities are discharged, and the cloth becomes soft, and free for the action of the salts: after this operation, it is washed in pure water, by a mill, with a regular and easy motion, and all loose particles are carried off. The second material operation in this art, is that of bucking or boiling, and is the most important of the whole; by these means the brown colour of the cloth is discharged by the application of alkaline lyes; these lyes are had from American potash, or barilla ashes; marcroft or cashub are also used, but they being very hard, must be well pounded before the salts are discharged from them. The ashes being put into the copper with the webs, they are boiled together, and the degree of strength of the lye is ascertained by the taste, because it cannot be known by the exact quantity of ashes; for the ashes lose their salts according to the time they are kept, and some kinds will possess a considerably greater quantity than others; nor is the taste a true

true standard to judge by, because it is variable, and must also be blunted or vitiated by constant trials. But a ball is invented, which is called the proof, by which the specific gravity is found, and the quantity of salts that are dissolved; this is nevertheless yet imperfect, for it does not expose the bad qualities of the salts, for the lighter the lye, the more apt it is to be corrosive, and destructive to the web. Pearl-ashes added to the lye correct the strong limy taste, which it possesses, and do away the dangerous consequences. It is now to be considered, what is the effect of the action of the lye on the web, and it is found by experience, that it reduces the cloth in weight, and hence follows the presumption, that, by removing some weight, this weight must be the brown colour, and that the linen is whitened, in proportion as it is weakened, these two powers acting in the like degree of force.

The cloth, having been boiled, is now laid on the green, alternately watered and dried, to expel the salts, which would, if let to dry too long, and get too much heat from the sun, condense and approach together, so much, as would corrode and destroy the texture of the linen. Thus it appears, that the linen becomes white by evaporation, that is, by the brown particles, together with the salts which it has acquired in bucking, flying off by the action and power of the sun and air on the web, and this is evident, by the cloth being dried, without being liable to injury after the evaporation has ceased; and it is still more certainly shewn, by the whiteness

whiteness, which that side of the web acquires, which is exposed to the sun, in a greater degree than the under side, or that next the grass. As it is in this operation that the cloth attains its whiteness, so is the excellence of the art attributed to this, which is a mistaken notion; for it is by reason of the salts, with which the cloth had been impregnated in the former operation, that it acquires the colour; so that, by watering and bleaching the process is finished, for which the ground-work was laid in boiling in the lye. In the lye is always a quantity of sulphureous matter, with which linen is consequently stained, which cannot be carried off easily, but by evaporation: washing alone will not have the effect, and this shews the necessity for sunny weather, in order to bleach to a good colour. The linen having acquired a degree of earthy matter, by reason of the alkaline salts, and the many washings and evaporations, it is necessary to discharge it of this, which cannot be done by washing alone, because earth will not be dissolved by water, and only can be effected by acids, or, in other words, by souring, which is the next operation. These acids, being applied naturally, connect with the earthy particles, which absorb them, and, in this mixture, a kind of salt is produced, which can readily be discharged by washing in water, which the earthy particles would not yield to, without the application of the acid. These acids are produced by bran-meal, steeped, and let lie to sour, by buttermilk, or sour milk, &c.; when the linen is deposited in this, a fermentation again takes place,

place, when the four matter along with the water soaks through the linen; after the acetous fermentation is over, here the same care must be observed to take out the linen, or else the putrid fermentation, which takes place immediately, will cause the gross particles to fall again on the web. The fours used at first, are very strong, and gradually reduced, but the four cannot be too strong: the earthy particles are greater during the first souring, and become lesser and lesser after every such application; consequently they do not require to be made so strong as at first. This operation takes a week at the least, but its effect is always hastened in hot weather, because by heat the fermentation is produced, and an artificial heat can be given by keeping the souring vessels in a warm situation, which will certainly quicken the process; besides the acids produced by the means now described, they can also be had from the vegetable, and from mineral acids, but the former are not supposed to be so good for the linen, as they contain an oily substance, which would be hostile to the cloth becoming white. Mineral acids, as vitriol, have not this oily matter, and can be produced by a much cheaper process than the former, and are now used; the cloth is always dry when put into the four, in order that the water and acid may be imbibed equally into the linen, which would not be the case was the web put in wet, as the water would naturally be first attracted to itself. In souring with milk, a fermentation is produced, and no danger can accrue to the web; but with vitriol,

there is no fermentation, and, being first reduced by water, it is rendered so weak, as that the linen cannot be injured, so that, in cautious hands, it is the quickest, easiest, and cheapest method; besides, in the milk, there is a greasy substance, which is ever prejudicial to linen, which the vitriol does not possess; nor, as the vitriol does not ferment, can that putrefaction take place, which damages linen so materially, and which is the case with milk; the latter takes several days to perform, and the other is more rapidly effected in a few hours; besides, cloth soured with vitriol is much whiter than it can be, when soured with milk; so that, for every reason, both as to expence, colour, and time, the vitriolic sour is certainly superior to any yet discovered.

The next operation is that of washing the web with soap and water, which can be so easily understood, that it scarcely deserves recital. Whether performed by machinery or by women, the effect is the same; it is only to discharge the acetous matter, which adheres to the cloth from the former process, and to carry off the heavy greasy particles, which remain in the cloth, after bleaching, and which unite with the soap: thus the cloth is effectually purged of them in the rubbing boards, which are grooved and worked into one another; the cloth is as it were milked, but it must be prejudicial to the linen, as it is so squeezed, and the friction is so great, that it raises a downy matter on the surface, which clearly wears the cloth; in the milking, all the
dirt

dirt is carried off, which has been raised in the rubbing. After this operation, the webs are blued and starched to a proper colour, and next dried on lofts, which protect it from any inclemency of weather.

Having from a little enquiry learned the preceding matters relative to bleaching, I thought they might not be unacceptable to my readers, and have taken the liberty to insert them; such matters can only be shewn superficially, coming from one, who never had any experience of the art, and not having the least knowledge of chemistry. I shall now show some grievances, which the trade labours under, and the first and most material of all is, the high price of land in the manufacturing counties; our linens are sent to foreign markets, which are also supplied from other countries, consequently, a competition ensues, and if we cannot sell on cheaper terms, we have no advantage or superiority. If the merchant cannot afford, for this reason, to raise the weaver's hire, who pays dearly for his provisions, in consequence of the high price of land, it follows, that the weaver, on whom the trade depends, must decline gradually, and of course the trade with him; hence follows emigration, which has in so alarming a degree taken place in the manufacturing counties, these two latter years, and with them how much of the gold of the country has also left us? It is remarkable, they have converted all they were worth into specie, and taken that with them, when, at all times before, linen cloth was conceived the surest speculation. This has in no

small degree injured the trade, as it depends on specie alone, and the high rate of discount for gold, which has varied from one to five per cent., of course takes so much from the profits of the linen trade, or adds so great a burthen to it. The sudden and great orders, which were given from England, about two years ago, for linens, occasioned the enormous rise in their prices, and the very rapid counter orders served in no small measure to hurt the trade, after numbers had speculated in this demand, and bought up a considerable quantity of linens, which have since lain on hands, and cannot now be sold at first cost. The linen trade must always be precarious so long as we import our own seed; for there is no commodity, that varies in price more than this, and as every article of merchandize, used in the various processes, is of such uncertain and changeable prices; but whilst rents are so high, of course, wages must be kept up, at least, as high as they are at present. In the immoderate price of land, which it now bears, if a crop fails, the farmer, who is also a manufacturer, must charge it upon something, and of course, it falls on the linen; this naturally points out the impropriety of allowing manufacturers to be farmers: to confine the weaver to his loom, and to give husbandry only to the farmer, would remove the evil, and would ultimately tend to the advantage of the landed proprietor, and of the kingdom in general. As a convincing proof of the impropriety of blending the two professions together, we find that the weaver can never be a good farmer,

farmer, for his early days are given up to the loom, which he is expert at, and of course, he must be awkward and ignorant of farming. Besides, no where in Ireland are there more slovenly modes of farming or more bleak, bare, and unadorned fields than are to be seen in the manufacturing counties, when the reverse ought to be the case, as the farms are so very small; but this argues their haste and hurry to return to their looms, before they have well begun their business in the field, which ought to be completely finished to insure a good crop, and which, when it fails, the loss is pulled up, by placing it to the linens, as the rent must be paid at all events. The linen trade is hurt in another manner also, and is deprived of the labour, and the additional skill the weaver might attain in the practice, which time is bestowed, or rather thrown away, on husbandry; thus, by intermixing the two pursuits together, it is estimated that both will lose one half of what they might enjoy, if separately followed. I know it may be argued, that the weaver enjoys a better state of health, by occasionally being employed in husbandry; let him have the same recreation in his garden, and the object is gained; but in answer to this objection, has he more disadvantages than the weavers, who are confined to the great manufacturing towns, who never attempt any thing of husbandry, and are as healthy as the community in general? Recreation is necessary in farming, where labour is so severe, as well as in manufacture; doubtless, the husbandman has a better chance

chance for good health than the manufacturer, and he is less addicted to intemperance and excess, which make no small reason for this superior enjoyment. The industrious and sober manufacturer can spare time enough from his loom, to take that recreation necessary for health, and also be able to earn a sufficiency for his expences; but what can be more plain, as to the loss to the trade, than this simple fact, that the weaver will earn more than double hire at his loom, than the most experienced husbandman can have for his labour in the field; hence it appears, it is not bodily labour, but art, on which the linen manufacture is dependant. To deny the weaver a garden would be cruelty, and it is a privilege they ought to enjoy, to procure them those vegetables, which could be raised with so little attention, or loss of time, and in hours of recreation would amount to a pleasure in this pursuit. More land they will certainly covet and grasp at, but it ought to be the policy of landlords to refuse it to them, for their mutual benefit, and for the good of the nation; by this means, manufacturers could be centered in villages, and, of course, their markets would be abundantly supplied, where such a demand would be occasioned from the numbers, that would reside together, and hence would follow large factories, which would, doubtless, tempt married men to engage in, when so many hands could be on the spot to occupy them.

Lands would in this instance rise on a solid and permanent foundation, in as much as the farmer would be
always

always so contiguous to a market, where he has a certain demand, and then the expence of long carriage, and holding over his crop till a high market (perhaps to its gradual injury) should occur, would be done away, and it is well known, that land will rate high as it comes near to a town, where the demand always is. Thus, it appears in summing up the grievances, which the trade is now burthened with, that in the first instance, it suffers, from not saving its own seed: that the flax dressers are not a distinct trade, in as much as it is as difficult an art to attain the true knowledge and nice dexterity of, as any other whatsoever, and which we have so little notion of: that the rates of lands are too high; and that the weaver is also a farmer; by an attention to the one business, he could more perfectly perform it, than by dividing his time and skill to two or more. Add to these the disadvantages, which result to husbandry, by the last grievance, and if we consider, on the whole, the immensity of seed, which might be saved, over and above our demand for the linen business, and of which so much oil could be extracted, which we import at so great a loss to the nation; we find that we have not yet attained that degree of perfection, which is within our reach, although, in our present imperfect state, we are unrivalled in our staple commodity. How much then ought we endeavour to rectify abuses, and fix the trade on that sure foundation, which will bid defiance to the world to rival it? And we should

should consider, that when an evil is permitted to stand unchecked, it will gradually increase, until the disease will, perhaps, require more violent remedies, and in the application of them, the constitution or well-being of our boasted fabric must be hazarded, and may be totally destroyed.

This is a subject, which cannot be too much investigated, and which deserves all the assistance of the very experienced and able opinions of those, who now are engaged in the linen trade; 'tis therefore hoped they will willingly contribute their mite, by adding their very judicious and sensible observations, which shall be paid all attention to in the next edition. I shall now proceed to the general heads, with which this work will be concluded; but first, I must remark a new method of bleaching, with a powder, which has been but just now invented, and which has a safer and quicker process; the matter, of which the powder is composed, which obviates the necessity of using ashes, is said to be from dregs of allum; but this is but a supposition, and must be a secret, until the inventor gets a patent for the discovery. He has already supplied some bleachers, who have reported, that this excellent composition will save to the trade one half the number of hands, one half the quantity of fuel, and two thirds the length of time that now are used; and the saving to the nation in general will certainly exceed 5000 000*l*.

The

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The proprietor will engage to furnish five tons of this powder per week, and let the cost of ashes be ever so dear, he will sell his composition at ten per cent. cheaper.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER XIII.

RELATING TO THE COUNTY AT LARGE.

RURAL ECONOMY.

SECT. I.

Labour.

IT appears, that labour is in small demand in this county, for the business of husbandry. The cottier and the manufacturer is rarely but one and the same person; his labour does not average more than eight pence per day, in the field; the woman's not more than half that sum, when her time is occupied without doors.

SECT. 2. *Provisions.*

PROVISIONS necessarily are high, where the population is so great, and when they import so much grain from the neighbouring counties. The county not yielding sheep walk, mutton rates high, little inferior to Dublin market; beef in the same rates, as so little is fed off, though the soil is very favourable for feeding, but from the number of inhabitants it is necessarily under tillage.

Poultry

OF THE COUNTY OF MONAGHAN. 219

Poultry are high, and Dublin poulterers, coming here for fowl, have considerably encreased the prices. Geese sell for twenty pence per couple; turkeys, two shillings and eight pence to three shillings and three pence; ducks, one shilling and one penny; barn door fowl, half fed, one shilling and four pence to one shilling and eight pence; and chickens from six pence to ten pence.

Cod fish is plenty in the season, brought from Dundalk and Newry by hawkers, on an average of two pence halfpenny per pound. Their numerous lakes supply abundance of fine pike.

Corn is steadily advancing; wheat has, for seven years past, averaged above thirty shillings per barrel; barley twenty-one shillings; meal twelve shillings per cwt.; and potatoes at the rate of about two pence halfpenny per stone.

SECT. 3. *Fuel.*

OF turf fuel they have the greatest abundance, and it can be reared on the bog, for about ten shillings the hundred statute kishes. These patches of bog are so thickly interspersed, it can be brought home for a very trifling additional expence.

CHAPTEC

CHAPTER XIV.

POLITICAL ECONOMY.

SECTION I.

Roads.

CONSIDERING the materials, that this county more generally affords, which are but very indifferent, the roads must be allowed to be well kept, and much attention and expence bestowed on them, but neither limestone gravel, nor the hard smutty gravel, are found, the latter not at all, and the former very partial. In referring to chapter VI. and page 66, will be seen the proportion of the several baronies, and the aggregate amount will shew, that large sums are expended in the repair of roads and bridges, which by no means are deserving of complaint.

SECT. 2 & 3. *Fairs and weekly Markets.*

THE fairs will be found noted in the following tables. The weekly markets, which only are respectable for the linen trade, have been already particularly noted in the baronial relation, and are also marked in the table of towns and villages.

SECT.

SECT. 4. *Commerce and Manufactures.*

THE linen trade, more particularly, or rather individually, occupies this class. The average value of the cloth, manufactured in this county, may be estimated by the following return of the bleach-greens; it being supposed, that as much cloth is purchased by the merchants (and brought home into the county to be bleached), in markets without the bounds of the county, as the quantity of webs from this county are sold in their markets.

THE COUNTY BLEACH-GREENS.

Place.	Proprietors.	Number of webs bleached.
Crieve,	Messrs. John Jackson	16,000
Ballyglush,	John Forbes	15,000
Ballybay, Lough Eagish,	— Crawford	10,000
Ditto, ditto,	Thomas Crawford	10,000
Crieve, ditto,	Geraghty & Byrne	12,000
Ditto, ditto,	Hugh Jackson	12,000
Ditto, ditto,	Wd. Cunningham	10,000
Ditto, ditto,	John Nelson,	6,000
Tullyglush,	— Henderfon	6,000
Augnamulla,	T. Brakey	10,000
Ditto,	Thomas Byrne	12,000
Blackstaff,	— Steele	5,000
Gorgran, Clones,	Robert Thompson	3,000
Durnaghlog,	Edward Lee	3,000

Total pieces 130,000

Let

Let these be rated at twenty-five shillings per piece, the price bought at, and we find the capital, in this particular, amounts to an hundred and sixty-five thousand pounds; the average price of these linens, as they are all coarse, will amount to two hundred and thirty-five thousand pounds; so that about ten shillings per web is charged for the expence of bleaching, interest of capital, and profit to the bleacher. The immense rate of one shilling per pound, exchange, between cash and thirty-one day bills on Dublin, must be a considerable drawback on the profit; but for the many reasons already advanced, the linen trade is capable of being increased full one half, if not in a double proportion, as well here, as in every other part of Ireland. The conclusion, that may be drawn from this assertion, must be unfavourable, or in other words, that these abuses are nowhere less prevalent than here.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER XV.

GENERAL TABLES.

SECTION I.

Tables of average rates of meadow, potatoe, and flax land, wages, &c.

BARONIES.	Rate of potatoe and flax land per acre.	Rate of meadow per acre.	Wages.
Cremourne, - - -	from 4 guineas to 5 pounds	from 2 guineas to 4 guineas	average, 9d. per day, throughout the year.
Dartrey, - - -	from 4 guineas to 6 guineas	from 2 guineas to 5 guineas	ditto 11d. per day, ditto.
Farney or Donaghmoyn, -	from 4 guineas to 5 guineas	from 3 guineas to 4 guineas	ditto 10d. ditto
Trough, - - -	from 4 pounds to 5 pounds	from 3 guineas to 4 guineas	ditto 1s. ditto
Monaghan, - - -	from 5 guineas to 6 guineas	from 4 guineas to 7 guineas	ditto 13d. ditto.

SECT.

SECTION II.

TABLE OF THE AVERAGE OF TITHE IN EACH BARONY.

BARONIES.	Rates per acre.			Sheep, Lambs, and Cows.	Meadow per Quantum.	Flax per Quantum.	Average value of arable and pasture together.
	Wheat.	Oats.	Bere and Barley.				
Cremourne, - - -	6s. 0d.	5s. 0d.	6s. 0d.	4d. per	1s.	1s.	20s. per acre.
Dartrey, - - -	8s. 0d.	4s. 6d.	6s. 0d.	4d. per	6d.	6d.	25s. per acre.
Farney or Donaghmoyne, - - -	8s. 8d.	5s. 5d.	6s. 0d.	4d. per	6d.	6d.	26s. 6d. per acre.
Frough, - - -	8s. 0d.	6s. 0d.	6s. 0d.	4d. per	6d.	6d.	25s. per acre.
Monaghan, - - -	8s. 0d.	6s. 0d.	6s. 0d.	4d. per	6d.	6d.	30s. per acre.

By the average value is meant the rent the lands would bring, from solvent tenants, if they were now to be let.

SECTION

SECTION III.

TABLE OF TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

BARONIES.	TOWNS.	VILLAGES.
Cremourne,	Ballibay, M. P. 3. Castleblaney, M. P. 3.	Ballytrane.
Dartrey,	Clones, M. P. 3.	Drum, Drumfwords, Newblifs, Rockcorry, Scot's-houf e
Farney, or Donagh- moyne.	Carrickmacrofs, M. P. 6.	Blackstaff.
Trough,	Glasfough,	Emy-Vale.
Monaghan,	Monaghan, M. P. 6.	Ballynoude, Castleshane, Knockbuy, Smithsborough, Tidavnet.

M. Denotes a market, P. a post town, and the figure marks the number of days in the week that the post comes in.

SECTION IV.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF FAIRS.

Ballibay (1 January), (24 March), (10 April), (14 May),
(5 July), (3 October), (15 November).

Ballinoude (1 Feb.), (2 May), (1 Aug.), (1 Nov.).

Ballytrane (1 May), (11 June), (1 Aug.), (29 Sept.),
(1 Nov.), (23 Dec.).

Carriackmacrois (27 May), (10 July), (27 September),
(9 Nov.) (10 Dec.).

Castleblaney (12 May), (16 Aug.), (8 Nov.), (6 Dec.)

Castlethane (21 May), (21 June), (21 July), (12 Aug.),
(15 Dec.).

Clones (the first Thursday in every month).

Drum (5 April), (20 June), (19 Sept.), (3 Nov.).

Emy-Vale, custom free, (1 Jan.), (3 Feb.), (17 March),
(14 April), (12 May), (13 June), (1 July), (4 Aug.),
(4 Sept.), (6 Oct.), (10 Nov.), (8 Dec.).

Glaslough (30 January), (22 February), (29 March),
(26 April), (31 May), (28 June), (26 July),
(30 Aug.), (30 Sept.), (25 Oct.), (29 Nov.),
(31 Dec.).

Knockboy

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Knockboy (1 June), (2 Dec.).

Monaghan (15 April), (28 May), (12 July), (18 Aug.),
(7 Oct.), (21 Nov.).

Newbliss (12 April), (30 May), (12 July), (9 Aug.)
(18 Oct.), (30 Nov.).

Rockcorry (27 Jan.), (24 Feb.), (28 March), (28 May),
(29 June), (24 Aug.), (17 Oct.), (19 Nov.)
(20 Dec.).

Scotstown (17 May), (17 June), (17 July), (18 Nov.).
Smithsborough (7 April), (17 May), (2 June), (8 Aug.)
(7 Nov.).

Tidavnet (20 Jan), (8 Feb.), (31 March), (24 June),
(28 Sept.).

SECTION V.

ALPHABETICAL LIST

OF THE

PRINCIPAL LAND PROPRIETORS.

Anketell, Charles, Esq.
———, Matthew, Esq.

Barton, ———, Esq.
Bath, Most Noble Marquis of,
Bellingham, ———, Esq.
Blaney, Right Hon. Lord,
Bradshaw, Cavendish, Esq.
Brownlow, ———, Esq.
Brunker, Thomas, Esq.
Bunbury, Mrs.

Clermont, Right Hon. Earl of,
Clonmell, Right Hon. Earl of,
Coote, Charles, Esq.

Coote,

Coote, Richard, Esq.

——, Thomas, Esq.

Corry, James, Esq.

——, ——, Esq.

Cremourne, Right Hon. Lord Viscount,

Crofton, ——, Esq.

Dacre, Right Hon. Lady,

Dawson, Richard, Esq.

Dunn, ——, Esq.

Ellis, Governor,

Evatt, Humphrey, Esq.

Forbes, John, Esq.

Forster, Reverend, Sir Thomas, Bart.

——, William, Esq.

Graham, Thomas, Esq.

Hamilton, Dacre, Esq.

——, ——, Esq.

——, Mrs.

Henry, William, Esq.

Hutcheson, ——, Esq.

Hutchinson, Robert, Esq.

Johnston, John, Esq.

——, ——, Esq.

Ker,

Ker, Alexander, Esq.

——, Colonel,

——, Rev. Andrew,

Lee, ——, Esq.

Leslie, Charles Albert, Esq.

——, Powell, Esq.

Lucas, ——, Esq.

Madden, Samuel, Esq.

Marley, Bishop,

Maffareene, Right Hon. Earl of,

Maxwell, Doctor,

——, Waring, Esq.

Mayne, Edward, Esq.

——, William, Esq.

Middleton, Right Hon. Lord,

Mitchell, Blaney Owen Esq.

——, ——, Esq.

Montgomery, Alexander, Esq.

——, Colonel,

——, Nixon, Esq.

——, Robert, Esq.

Moore, Montgomery, Esq.

Montrey, ——, Esq.

Mulholland, ——, Esq.

Plunket, Doctor,

Rawdon, ——, Esq.

Richardson, Major,

Rawley, ——, Esq.

Scott,

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Scott, ———, Esq.
Shirley, ———, Esq.
Singleton, Thomas, Esq.
Slacke, John, Esq.
Sloane, ———, Esq.
Smith, ———, Esq.
Steele, Norman, Esq.

Templeton, Right Hon. Lord,
Tennison, Barton, Esq.
Taylor, Walter, Esq.

Verner, ———, Esq.

Westenroe, Hon. W. W.

Besides a number of small proprietors, who hold Cromwellian debentures, and considerable tracts of church lands.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER XVI.

FARMING SOCIETY.

IF the real interests of the county were studied, and husbandry engaged in only by farmers, then would this pursuit gradually meet improvement. The necessity of apprenticing youth to this extensive business would doubtless be seen, but, as yet, agriculture can be only said to be in its infancy here, in improvement. That the resident proprietors have a due sense of the importance of encouraging it, may be seen in the following advertisement of the Farming Society, which has been instituted in this county, and, from the spirit and abilities of the members, will doubtless be earnestly attended to.

COUNTY OF MONAGHAN FARMING SOCIETY.

At the first meeting of the Society, held at the New Inn, Monaghan, on the 2d of March, 1801.

ALEXANDER NIXON MONTGOMERY, ESQ. IN THE CHAIR.

Charles Powell Leslie, Esq. was unanimously elected president, and Humphrey Evatt, Esq. secretary and treasurer, for the ensuing year. The following rules were unanimously agreed to:

That

OF THE COUNTY OF MONAGHAN. 233

That any person subscribing one guinea, shall be admitted a member of this society, for one year.

That any person subscribing ten guineas, shall be admitted a member of this society for life.

That all subscriptions to this society be paid in advance.

That there shall be four meetings of this society in each year, on the first Monday, in each of the following months, viz. March, June, September, and December.

That no premium shall be offered, no money shall be paid, or premium adjudged, except by direction of a meeting of the society, regularly assembled.

That, at each meeting, the chairman shall take the chair precisely at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, and leave it, at the latest, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

That no claims for premiums will be considered, that are not given in to the secretary, at least three clear days before the day of meeting, on which such premiums are to be adjudged.

The Society having agreed to hold an extra meeting this year, on Wednesday the 15th of April next, being the third day of the assizes, propose to give the following premiums, if approved of at that meeting.

For every bushel of good sound flax-seed, which shall be saved in this county, in 1801, and fit for sowing, a premium of four shillings. Proof of the good quality of
of

of the seed saved, where it grew, and the quantity and quality of the ground; the quantity of flax and tow obtained from the crop, from which such seed was saved, and the grift to which it was calculated to spin; the manner, particularly, how such seed was saved, and how disposed of, must be given in with the claim, which will be adjudged at the meeting of this society in March, 1802. For this premium the sum of 20*l*. will be appropriated.

A premium of forty shillings each, will be given to such persons as shall, by actual experiment, ascertain the best season in this county for planting the general crop of potatoes. An exact account of; the kinds of potatoes planted; the days when planted; whether in drills or ridges; the quantity of seed used, and whether scoops, sets, or shoots; the quality and extent of the ground planted; the kind of manure used, and the produce from each planting, must be given in with the claim, which will be adjudged at the meeting in March, 1802. For this premium the sum of 10*l*. will be appropriated.

A premium of five guineas each, will be given to such persons as introduce bulls into this county, of any breed of such superiority to those already in it, as shall entitle them, in the opinion of the judges, to such premium. This premium will be adjudged at the meeting in June next, and each person obtaining it must contract, that the bull, for which he got it, shall neither be kept with beef cows, nor in a stock-farm, and shall remain in this county

county until the first day of September next. For this premium the sum of 22*l.* 1*s.* will be appropriated.

The society will also give premiums for the cultivation of red clover this year, in ground properly prepared; and for the raising of green food for the support of cattle in the ensuing winter. The terms of those premiums will be made known to the public as soon as possible, after they shall have been decided by the society in April next.

Whenever the approved claims for premiums exceed in value the sum appropriated by the society for such premiums, such sum will be ratably divided amongst the claimants; and all premiums will be paid in money, or books on agriculture, stamped by the society, at the option of the successful claimants.

The Society reserve to themselves a discretionary power of giving, in all cases, such part only of any premium, as shall be adjudged merited, or, in case of want of merit, no part; and, in all cases, the claimants of premiums must submit to an examination on oath.

Whenever the acre is mentioned, the society intend plantation measure; whenever weight is mentioned, they request it may be described by the stone of fourteen pounds.

The society mean, as soon as their funds will permit, to purchase a collection of the most approved books on agriculture, and to procure models and patterns of such implements, now used in husbandry, as shall appear to them best suited to the soil and circumstances of this county.

county. And they give notice, that a *show* of yearling calves will be held, in some convenient place in this county, some time in the month of May, 1802, when premiums will be given for those of superior excellence, that shall have been calved and reared, the property of landholders in this county; and some time in the spring of the same year, they will give premiums for superior ploughing.

In this public manner, they solicit pecuniary assistance from the clergy and land-owners of this county, to enable them to adopt a more enlarged scale for encouraging the agriculture, and promoting the happiness of the country; and they request the assistance and communication of such experienced farmers, as wish to encourage so useful an institution.

Ordered, that the Right Hon. John Foster be requested to permit his name to be enrolled as an honorary member of this society.

That Arthur Young, Esq. be requested to permit his name to be enrolled as an honorary member of this Society.

That our secretary do forthwith apply to all beneficed clergymen, and land-owners of this county, for pecuniary aid.

Signed by order,

HUMPHREY EVATT, Sec. and Treasr.
(Post-town, Monaghan.)

A list of the members of this society, and an account of subscriptions received, and from whom, will be published immediately after the next April meeting.

Here

*Here follows another advertisement from the Secretary of
the Monaghan Farming Society.*

COUNTY OF MONAGHAN FARMING SOCIETY.

IN consequence of the great press of public business at the last Monaghan assizes, it was not found convenient to hold then the intended extra meeting of this society; the members are informed, that Monday the first of June next, is the day appointed for the next meeting.

To encourage the agriculture, improve the breed of cattle, promote the comforts of the poor, and reward servants of approved honesty, sobriety, and fidelity, in the county of Monaghan, are the objects of this society. The secretary has been ordered to solicit pecuniary assistance from the beneficed clergy and land-owners in that county. Such of them, as wish to encourage so useful an institution, are requested to inform him of the sums they mean to subscribe, on or before the day of the next meeting, as the society must regulate the amount of their premiums by the state of their finances.

A subscriber of one guinea becomes a member for one year.

A list

A list of the members, and the amount of subscriptions received, and from whom, will be published immediately after the next meeting.

HUMPHREY EVATT, Sec. and Treasr.

May 3, 1801.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER XVII.

CONCLUSION.

IN taking a general view of this county, we find it might be benefited, to a considerable degree, by encouraging corn farming, and appropriating these parts to sheep-walk, which are particularly favourable for that pursuit. In its present state, it does not, by any means, yield corn sufficient for its population, and, by allowing manufacturers to interfere in farming, which they shew so little knowledge of, it is very evident, that both agriculture and the linen trade suffer severely, by this misapplication of time and capital.

The intrinsic value of the land might be increased full one-third, if profitably occupied; and a proper attention to flax husbandry would raise the trade to double its present value.

I have now but to request the indulgence of my readers, in this incorrect sketch of this county; and I trust that the gentlemen, who understand their own real interests, will lend their assistance to a matter of such importance, as the Statistical Surveys of Ireland shall be, when corrected by those, who are best capable, from their residence and local information.

To

To the gentlemen of this county, who have already shewn so much earnestness in the cause, by their ready assistance to me, and intelligent communications, as well as for their hospitable and polite reception, I beg leave to return my best acknowledgements, and have the honor to remain their most humble servant,

CHARLES COOTE.

FINIS.

*References to the annexed * Plate of a patent Drill-Machine, invented by the Rev. JAMES COOKE, of Heaton-Norris, near Manchester,† and of a new-constructed simple Hand-Hoe.*

A, the upper part of the seed-box.

B, the lower part of the same box.

C, a moveable partition, with a lever, by which the grain or seed is let fall at pleasure from the upper to the lower part of the seed-box, from whence it is taken up by cups or ladles applied to the cylinder D, and dropped into the funnel E, and conveyed thereby into the furrow or drill, made in the land by the coulter F, and covered by the rake or harrow G.

H, a lever, by which the wheel I is lifted out of gear with the wheel K, to prevent the grain or seed being scattered upon the ground, while the machine is turning round at the end of the land, by which the harrow G is also lifted from the ground at the same time, and by the same motion, by means of the crank, and the horizontal lever *h h*.

L, a sliding lever, with a weight upon it, by means of which, the depth of the furrows or drills, and consequently the depth that the grain or seed will be deposited in the land, may be easily ascertained.

M, a screw in the coulter-beam, by turning of which, the seed-box B is elevated or depressed, in order to prevent

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* For plate, see page 146. † Now at No. 7, Oxford-street, London.

vent the grain or seed being crushed or bruised by the revolution of the cups or ladles.

N, a rake with iron teeth, to be applied to the under-side of the rails of the machine, with staples and screw nuts at *nn*, by which many useful purposes are answered, viz. in accumulating clutche or hay into rows, and as a scarificator for young crops of wheat in the spring, or to be used upon a fallow; in which case, the seed-box, the ladle cylinder, the coulter, the funnels, and harrows, are all taken away.

O, is a new-constructed simple hand-hoe, by which one man will effectually hoe two chain acres per day, earthing up the soil at the same time to the rows of corn or pulse, so as to cause roots to issue from the first joint of the stem, above the surface of the land, which otherwise would never have existed.

This side view of the machine is represented, for the sake of perspicuity, with one seed-box only, one coultter, one funnel, one harrow, &c. whereas a complete machine is furnished with five coulter, five harrows, seven funnels, a seed-box in eight partitions, &c. with ladles, of different sizes, for different sorts of grain and seeds.

Directions

Directions for using the Machine.

The ladle cylinder D (see the plate) is furnished with cups or lades of four different sizes for different sorts of grain or seeds, which may be distinguished by the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4.

No. 1, (the smallest size) is calculated for turnip-seed, clover-seed, cole-seed, rape, &c. and will sow something more than one pound per statute acre.

No. 2, for wheat, rye, hemp, flax, &c. and will sow something more than one bushel per acre.

No. 3, for barley; and will sow one bushel and a half per acre.

No. 4, for beans, oats, pease, vetches, &c. and will sow two bushels per acre.

Notwithstanding the above specified quantities of grain or seeds, a greater or less quantity of each may be sown at pleasure, by stopping up with a little clay, or by adding a few ladles to each respective box. The grain or seed intended to be sown, must be put in those boxes, to which the cups or ladles as above described respectively belong, an equal quantity into each box, and all the other boxes empty. The ladle cylinder may be reversed, or turned end for end at pleasure, for different sorts of grain, &c.

For sowing beans, oats, pease, &c. with a five-counter machine, four large ladles must occasionally be applied, at equal distances, round those parts of the cylinder,

which subtend the two end boxes. And for sowing barley, eight large ones must be applied as above; or four ladles, No. 2, to each of the wheat boxes. These additional ladles are fixed on the cylinder with nails, or taken off in a few minutes; but, for sowing with a four-coulter machine, the above alterations are not necessary.

The funnels are applied to their respective places by corresponding numbers. Care should be taken, that the points of the funnels stand directly behind the backs of the coulters, which is done by wedges being applied to one side or other of the coulters, at the time they are fixed in their respective places.

The machine being thus put together, [see the plate] which is readily and expeditiously done, as no separate part will coincide with any other but that, to which it respectively belongs, and an equal quantity of grain or seed in each of the respective boxes, the land also being previously ploughed and harrowed once or so in a place to level the surface; but if the land be very rough, a roller will best answer that purpose, whenever the land is dry enough to admit of it; and upon strong clays, a spiked roller is sometimes necessary to reduce the size of the large dry clods; which being done, the driver should walk down the furrow, or edge of the land, and having hold of the last horse's head with his hand, he will readily keep him in such a direction, as will bring the outside coulter of the machine within three or four inches of the edge of the land or ridge, at which uniform extent he should keep his arm, till he comes to the

the end of the land; where having turned round, he must come to the other side of his horses, and walking upon the last outside drill, having hold of the horse's head with his hand as before, he will readily keep the machine in such a direction, as will strike the succeeding drill at such a distance from the last outside one, or that he walks upon, as the coulters are distant from each other.

The person, that attends the machine, should put down the lever H, soon enough at the end of the land, that the cups or ladles may have time to fill, before he begins to sow; and at the end of the land, he must apply his right hand to the middle of the rail between the handles, by which he will keep the coulters in the ground, while he is lifting up the level H with his left hand, to prevent the grain being scattered upon the headland, while the machine is turning round; this he will do with great ease, by continuing his right hand upon the rail between the handles, and applying his left arm under the left handle, in order to lift the coulters out of the ground, while the machine is turning round.

If there be any difficulty in using the machine, it consists in driving it straight. As to the person that attends the machine, he cannot possibly commit any errors, except such as are wilful, particularly as he sees at one view the whole process of the business, viz. that the coulters make the drills of a proper depth; that the funnels continue open to convey the grain or seed into the drills; that the rakes or harrows cover the grain sufficiently; and when seed is wanting in the lower boxes

B, which

B, which he cannot avoid seeing, he readily supplies them from the upper boxes A, by applying his hand, as the machine goes along, to the lever C. The lower boxes B, should not be suffered to become empty before they are supplied with seed, but should be kept nearly full, or within an inch or so of the edge of the box.

If chalk lines are made across the backs of the coulters, at such a distance from the ends as the seed should be deposited in the ground, (viz. about two inches for wheat, and from two to three for spring corn) the person, that attends the machine, will be better able to ascertain the depth the seed should be deposited in the drills, by observing, as the machine goes along, whether the chalk lines are above or below the surface of the land; if above, a proper weight must be applied to the lever L, which will force the coulters into the ground; if below, the lever L and weight must be reversed, which will prevent their sinking too deep.

Wheat, that is brined and limed, should be made dry by spreading it thin upon a floor, and the loose particles of lime sifted out, before it is sown by the machine; otherwise the grain, by clogging together, will not be so regularly distributed in the drills. Good old seed-wheat is much better than new, and is not so subject to smut; this is proved by experience.

Upon wet soils or strong clays, wheat should not be deposited more than two inches deep, on any account whatever; nor less than two inches deep on dry soils. From two to three inches is a medium depth for all spring

spring corn. But the exact depth, at which grain should be deposited in different soils, from the lightest sand to the strongest clay, is readily ascertained, only by observing at what distance, under the surface of the land, the secondary or coronal roots are formed in the spring.

In different parts of the kingdom, lands or ridges are of different sizes; where the machine is too wide for the land, one or more funnels may occasionally be stopped with a little loose paper, and the seed received into such funnel returned at the end of the land, or sooner if required, into the upper seed-box. But for regularity and expedition, lands consisting of so many feet wide from outside to outside, as the machine contains coulter, when fixed at twelve inches distance, or twice or three times the number, &c. are best calculated for the machine. In wet soils, or strong clays, lands or ridges of the width of the machine, and in dry soils, of twice the width, are recommended. For sowing of narrow high-ridged lands, the outside coulters should be let down, and the middle ones raised, so that the points of the coulters may form the same curve, that the land or ridge forms. And the loose soil, harrowed down into the furrows, should be returned to the edges of the lands or ridges, from whence it came, by a double mould-board, or other plough, whether the land be wet or dry.

Clover, or other lays, intended to be sown by the machine, should be ploughed a deep strong furrow, and well harrowed, in order to level the surface, and to get

as

as much loose soil as possible for the coulter to work in ; and, when sown, if any of the seed appears in the drills uncovered, by reason of the stiff texture of the soil, or toughness of the roots, a light harrow may be taken over the land, once in a place, which will effectually cover the seed, without displacing it in the drills. For sowing clays, a considerable weight must be applied to the lever L, to force the coulters into the ground ; and a set of wrought-iron coulters, well steeled, and made sharp at the front edge and bottom, are recommended ; they will pervade the soil more readily, consequently require less draught, and expedite business more than adequate to the additional expence.

For every half acre of land intended to be sown by the machine with the seed of that very valuable root, (carrot) one bushel of saw-duft, and one pound of carrot-feed, should be provided ; the saw-duft should be made dry, and sifted, to take out all the lumps and chips, and divided into eight equal parts or heaps ; the carrot-feed should likewise be dried, and well rubbed between the hands, to take off the beards, so that it will separate readily, and being divided into eight equal parts or heaps, one part of the carrot-feed must be well mixed with one part of the saw-duft, and so on, till all the parts of carrot-feed and saw-duft are well mixed and incorporated together, in which state it may be sown very regularly in drills, at twelve inches distance, by the cups or ladles, No. 2. Carrot-feed resembling saw-duft very much in its size, roughness, weight, adhesion, &c. will remain mixed

mixed as above during the sowing; a ladle full of saw-duft will, upon an average, contain three or four carrot-seeds, by which means the carrot-feed cannot be otherwise than regular in the drills. In attempting to deposit small seeds near the surface, it may so happen that some of the seeds may not be covered with soil; in which case, a light roller may be drawn over the land, after the feed is sown, which will not only cover the seeds, but will also, by levelling the surface, prepare the land for an earlier hoeing than could otherwise have taken place.

It has always been found troublesome, sometimes impracticable, to sow any kind of grain or seed (even broadcast) in a high wind. This inconvenience is entirely obviated, by placing a screen of any kind of cloth, or a sack, supported by two uprights nailed to the sides of the machine, behind the funnels, which will prevent the grain or seed being blown out of its direction in falling from the ladles into the funnels. Small pipes of tin may also be put on to the ends of the funnels, to convey the grain or seed so near the surface of the land, that the highest wind shall not be able to interrupt its descent into the drills.

That farmers may not be reduced to the necessity of sowing their land out of condition, that is, when the soil is wet and clammy, every exertion ought to be made, in ploughing up their lands ready to sow as early as possible in the season, that the first opportunity of sowing when the land is dry may be embraced; nothing bids fairer for success in the drill system, than early sowing; in which
case

case the plants have time to throw out or multiply so many additional stems or offsets as the land is able to support. But if farmers will sow early, they must plough early, otherwise strong productive soils will not be in condition to receive the seed; and such extraordinary advantages have been uniformly derived from ploughing up stubbles immediately after the crops have been carried, that many intelligent experimental farmers have declared, that one furrow of the plough before winter is worth two or three in the spring.

Respecting the use of the machine, it is frequently remarked, by some people not conversant with the properties of matter and motion, that the soil will close after the coulters, before the seed is admitted into the drills. Whereas the very contrary is the case; for the velocity of the coulters in passing through the soil, is so much greater than the velocity, with which the soil closes up the drills by its own spontaneous gravity, that the incisions or drills will be constantly open for three or four inches behind the coulters; by which means it is morally impossible (if the points of the funnels stand directly behind the coulters) that the seed, with the velocity it acquires in falling through the funnels, shall not be admitted into the drills.

Directions

Directions for Hoeing, &c.

THIS hoe [see the plate] is worked much in the same manner as a common Dutch hoe, or scuffle, is worked in gardens; the handle is elevated or depressed, to suit the size of the person that works it, by means of an iron wedge being respectively applied to the upper or under side of the handle, that goes into the socket of the hoe.

Wheat and rye cannot be hoed too early in the spring, provided the soil be dry enough to admit of being previously rolled with a light roller; nothing facilitates and expedites hoeing for the first time, so much as rolling, by pulverizing the soil and levelling the surface; it ought nevertheless to be omitted, rather than used, if the soil be not quite dry, at least dry enough to quit the roller.

The wings or moulding plates of the hoe, which are calculated to earth up the soil to the rows of corn, so as to cause the roots to issue from the first joint of the stem above the surface, which otherwise would not have existed, should never be used for the first hoeing, but should always be used for the last hoeing, and used or not used, at the option of the farmer, when any intermediate hoeing is performed. The last hoeing or earthing up should not take place till the crop is eight or ten inches high; or till the young ears of corn are so far advanced in the stems, as to be above the surface of the soil.

soil, when the earthing up is finished. The young ears of corn will, on dissecting a few stems, be found to exist in embryo as it were, much sooner than is generally apprehended. The absurdity of rolling any crop after the young ears are formed, and of earthing up the soil, before they are advanced in the stems above the surface of the soil, must be self-evident. In the former instance they will be crushed by the roller; in the latter, they will be smothered by the soil. The young ears of corn will be found to exist, as soon as the secondary or coronal roots are formed.

The above observations on hoeing wheat and rye, are applicable to the hoeing of all spring crops; only the first hoeing of barley, oats, &c. should take place as soon as the second blade or leaf of the young plant appears; and of beans, pease, &c. as soon as the plants can be distinguished in the rows.

The best season for hoeing is two or three days after rain, or so soon after rain as the soil will quit the instrument in hoeing. Light dry soils may be hoed almost at any time, but this is far from being the case with strong clay soils; the season for hoeing such is frequently short and precarious; every opportunity therefore should be carefully watched, and eagerly embraced. The two extremes of wet and dry are great enemies of vegetation in strong clay soils; the bad effects of the former, though difficult to guard against, are nevertheless to be remedied in some measure by ploughs of a better construction, and more properly conducted, than such as are commonly

commonly met with in strong clay soils. For if the wing or feather of the plough-share were made nearly as wide as the intended furrow, and fixed so as to move parallel to the surface of the land, the under side of every furrow would be cut parallel to the surface, and a smooth floor or surface, polished by the bottom of the plough would be found under every furrow, forming a regular plane with an uniform descent from the top of a ridge into the water-furrow; upon which polished floor or surface, all superfluous water, after filtrating through the loose soil, or furrows turned over by the plough, would find its way readily and precipitately into the water furrow, at least so as to prevent its stagnating in the soil, so as to starve the plants. But so far from guarding as much as possible against the bad effects of superfluous water stagnating in clay soils, by the above palpable process in ploughing, the construction of the ploughs commonly made use of, and the method of conducting them in strong clays in several parts of this kingdom, have a direct tendency to the contrary; this is done by working their ploughs in such a position, that the wing or feather of the share, being neither so wide as the intended furrow, nor parallel to the surface when at work, but forming an angle of forty or fifty degrees with the same, or, in other words, moving in an oblique direction to the surface, turns over not a square or parallel, but a triangular furrow. In which case it is self-evident, that such lands are only half-ploughed; there being so many ridges of fast undisturbed soil, as
there

there are furrows, forming so many troughs or trenches; that of all the superfluous water, that shall fall upon such lands, so much only as shall remain over and above filling the trenches will be able to find its way into the water-furrows; for some clay soils, indeed all soils when puddled, will hold water like a dish; consequently so much water as the above trenches shall contain, will remain there till it is evaporated by sun and air, starving the plants, and puddling the soil to such a degree, that the nutritive quality in the food of plants may become so far impaired as not to be restored; or if it should, the tender fibres of the roots of plants may be so putrified by stagnated water, as to be incapable ever after of answering their intended purpose in promoting vegetation.

As to the bad effects of strong clay soils caking in dry weather, nothing more easy to prevent; for there is a period between the time of clay soils running together, so as to puddle by superfluous wet, and the time of their caking by drought, that they are as tractable as need be. Now this is the time, this is the juncture for hoeing; and so much land, as shall be thus seasonably hoed, will not cake or crust upon the surface, as it otherwise would have done, till it has been soaked or drenched again with rain; in which case the hoeing is to be repeated, as soon as the soil will quit the instrument, and as often as necessary; by which time, the growing crop will begin to cover the ground, so as to act as a screen to the surface of the land, against the intense heat of the sun, and thereby

thereby prevent, in great measure, the bad effects of the soil's caking in dry weather.

When land is to be laid down with seeds, the seeds must not be sown, as usual, with the grain, but the day the last hoeing is to be performed. If seeds are sown when barley is sown, hoeing is excluded, consequently the great advantages of drilling are frustrated; but not being sown till the last hoeing is just going to take place, every purpose is answered. For the crop is not only improved by hoeing, but the soil in the spaces between the rows of corn, being cleared from weeds, and pulverized by hoeing, will be in much better condition to receive the seeds; and the seeds being sown broadcast, just before the last hoeing, will be incorporated with the soil by the action of the hoe, so as to vegetate much better, and produce a much better crop than usual. The wings or moulding plates of the hoe may, or may not be used at all upon land, that is to lie down with seeds.

Such strong weeds as may grow directly in the rows of corn, and out of the reach of the hoe to cut up, should be plucked up by hand, to prevent their coming to maturity, and dropping their seeds upon the soil, that has been previously made clean by hoeing:

These machines (with five coulter, price sixteen guineas; with four coulter, fifteen guineas) equally excel in setting or planting all sorts of grain and seeds, even carrot-feed, to exactness, after the rate of from
eight

eight to ten chain acres per day, with one man, a boy, and two horses. They deposit the grain or seed in any given quantity from one peck to three bushels per acre, regularly and uniformly, and that without grinding or bruising the seed, and at any given depth, from half an inch to half a dozen inches, in rows at the distance of twelve, sixteen, and twenty-four inches, or any other distance. They are equally useful on all lands, are durable, easy to manage, and by no means subject to be put out of repair.

The Dublin Society have not yet got a Model of this Machine ; it is to be seen in London, at the White Bear, Basinghall-street, at Mr. Gatfield's, No. 54, Newgate-street, and at Mr. Mathew's, Bath.

The author having been in the country when the work was at press, occasioned the following numerous Errata, which shall be better attended to in the next Edition.

ERRATA TO THE WORK.

- Page 2, line 2, for *breadth*, read, *length*.
13, line 3, for *even*, read, *ever*.
15, line 16, for *erected*, read, *created*.
16, line 18, for *spring*, read, *spiry*.
17, line 5, for *excellent*, read, *esculent*.
21, line 1, for *Cavin-more*, read, *Cairn-more*.
——— 3, after *extensive*, insert, *mill-stone-*
31, line 14, for *application*, read, *appellation*.
56, line 17, for *incapable*, read, *capable*.
74, line 25, for *thrice*, read, *twice*.
93, line 4, for *Cairan*, read, *Curran*.
106, lines 25, 26, for *pasture*, read, *potatoe*.
110, line 24, from the asterisk, mark the quotation to line 8, page 113.
179, last line, for *Erritt*, read, *Evatt*.
184, line 18, for *saving*, read, *sowing*.
196, line 16, after *remedied*, make a period, delete *which*, and insert, *Pounding*.
204, line 10, for *a cross wheel*, read, *cogs which are*.
214, line 25, for *married*, read, *monied*.
227, line 9, for *July*, read, *August*.
231, line 10, for *Taylor*, read *Tyler*.

Land proprietor omitted.

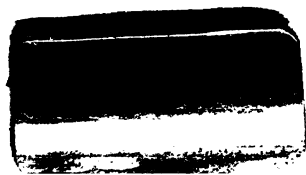
Rossmore, Right Hon. Lord.

*History of Monaghan for two hundred years, by
Denis Carolan Rushe B.A. T.C.D. F.R.S.A.
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